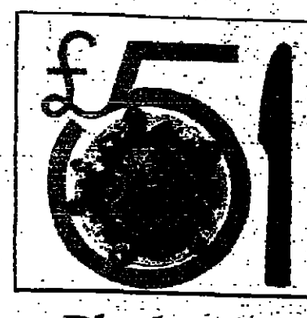
THE TIMES

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No. 65,495 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1996



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Gun girls

Why American women are packing heat

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THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

The top 250 team managers

PAGES 22-23

Black mark for half of primaries

Back-to-basics demand as schools fail

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HALF of all primary schools and four out of ten secondaries are falling below acceptable standards, the Chief Inspector of Schools said yesterday in a critical annual report demanding an overhaul of teaching methods.

Chris Woodhead pointed to widespread literacy and numeracy problems, and called for greater use of streaming according to ability — although he stopped short of demanding a wholesale return to traditional teaching.

His report confirmed weaknesses identified in last month's poor test results for 11-year-olds and Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, immediately announced that school league tables for the age group would be published next year.

Mrs Shephard, who resisted the move a fortnight ago, said the level of concern was such that performance tables had become a priority. "It seems to me that after these two sets of evidence about what primary schools are producing, we have to make sure that they are being made fully accountable and that the results are transparent for all to see."

Primary schools were the main targets for criticism in yesterday's report, which is based on 3,500 inspections by the Office for Standards in Education. Mr Woodhead said that basic numeracy and literacy remained causes for concern, together with the teaching of children between the ages of seven and 14.

The teaching of reading was "mediocre or poor" in many junior schools, with too little use made of phonics, a traditional method which involves sounding out letters. In mathematics, number work was neglected and progress was "disappointing".

Mr Woodhead said there were twice as many excellent teachers as poor ones, but he stood by his previous estimates that 15,000 were incompetent and should be sacked if they could not be retrained. Those teaching the four years

[redacted]

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of junior school, between seven and 11, often had insufficient knowledge of their subjects, and throughout the primary years, more use should be made of "whole class" teaching alongside the individual teaching that occupied three-quarters of the primary school day.

Mr Woodhead also called for more grouping by ability — only 4 per cent of primary school lessons were streamed, compared with 60 per cent in secondary schools.

The proportion of junior school lessons judged unsatisfactory dropped from 30 per cent to 21 per cent, but Ofsted said that last year's high figure came from only 80 inspections. Junior schools were still producing more unsatisfactory and fewer excellent lessons than other sectors.

Mr Woodhead's report named 200 highly successful schools inspected in the past year. Two-thirds of the "outstanding" secondary schools were selective and a third of all the secondaries listed had "opted out".

Mrs Shephard said that the "success stories" should be congratulated and held out as an example to all, but there was still a long way to go. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, described the report as a very serious indictment of the Government's record on primary schools. "The difficulties being faced particularly by seven to 11-year-olds highlight the need for strong action at this level."

Union leaders meanwhile insisted that it was "wrong and simplistic" to blame teachers burdened with an overloaded curriculum for poor standards. They pointed to disruptive children, uncaring parents and limited resources.

The National Union of Teachers also criticised Mrs Shephard's plans to publish performance tables for 11-year-olds. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, said: "Parents have a right to receive information about the quality of education their children receive. Snapshot inspections and crude league tables do not provide this."

The National Association for Primary Education said league tables would have a seriously damage standards.

ALAN WELLER



Gillian Shephard ordered league tables after double indictment of junior schools

Blizzards warning as snow sweeps over Britain

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SNOW was being driven by high winds across much of Britain last night and motoring organisations warned drivers to prepare for a hazardous journey to work today.

Weather forecasters said the snow would settle and temperatures would hover around zero until the end of the week, when another weather front gathering over the Atlantic may bring further snow.

The big chill is arriving from the west where a "typical" Atlantic system has been sucking in south-easterly winds from the Continent. The London Weather Centre said: "We expect most places, with the exception of East Anglia and parts of Kent, to have some snow by this morning."

The storms, increasing to blizzards in some areas, began yesterday in Scotland, Wales and Dartmoor and Exmoor and moved south and eastwards throughout the night. Weather warnings were issued for Lancashire, Wales and the South West.

In Scotland, many mountain routes were declared impassable, with Dumfries and Galloway the worst affected. Falkirk and Stirling in Central region also had heavy snow and a number of roads across the country were blocked, including the northbound carriageway of the M74 from Carlisle to Glasgow. The AA described conditions as treacherous.

Wales was also badly affected, with the Horseshoe Pass in Clwyd, and the Rhigos, Bwlch, Maerdy and Llanwonno mountain roads in Mid-Glamorgan all impassable. Many rural roads in Dyfed, Powys and Clwyd were also hit.

Thousands of children in Scotland, Wales and Cumbria were sent home and all schools in the Rhondda Valley were closed.

Nuclear workers spent the night at the Sellafield complex in West Cumbria because snow drifts prevented them getting home. All roads south to Barrow had drifts up to 6 ft deep and trains were unable to use the coastal line to the Furness area.

In Falkirk, Sheriff Albert Sheehan was so concerned that a 60-year-old vagrant would perish in the freezing conditions that he passed a prison sentence on humanitarian grounds. John Bain, who has lived rough for eight years, was jailed for 60 days after admitting a breach of the peace. Sheriff Sheehan said: "If I don't send him to prison, he will walk out of here into that weather which is going to get worse."

MPs and agencies representing vulnerable groups, including Age Concern and Help the Aged, meanwhile renewed their demands for changes to the Government's cold weather payments system, which they believe is unfair and unpredictable.

Photograph and Forecast, page 24



US warns China over war games

The Clinton Administration warned China yesterday that planned military exercises in the strait opposite Taiwan would aggravate tension and lead to political instability in the region.

Washington believes the exercise, intended as a method of intimidation before Taiwan's presidential elections in March, may be at least as large as last September's, which involved 40 ships and 100 aircraft. Pages 15, 19

Ashdown writ

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, began libel proceedings against the Western Daily Press, which published allegations about his personal life. On Thursday the defendant in a case of assault on Mr Ashdown is likely to ask for reporting restrictions to be lifted Page 2

BBC in injury time push to keep big sports events

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

THE BBC launched a fierce last-minute campaign yesterday to prevent Britain's biggest sporting events being broadcast only on satellite television.

As peers prepared for a knife-edge Lords vote on televised sport, senior BBC figures pledged to spend more on sport to compete against satellite companies. Peers will vote tonight on Broadcasting Bill amendments aimed at keeping listed sports events like the FA Cup, Grand National and the Olympics on terrestrial television.

A large all-party group of peers is lining up to support an amendment which would ensure that eight listed events cannot be shown exclusively on subscription channels such as those operated by BSkyB. Senior government sources concede that the vote will be extremely tight and that the outcome may depend on the worsening weather which is likely to prevent many peers from attending.

Last night Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC network television, took the unusual step of briefing journalists at the Commons on the BBC's plans for sports coverage. He said that, as well as protecting listed events, terrestrial stations should have the rights to buy highlights of non-listed events, such as the golf Ryder Cup or the rugby union Five Nations' Championship, if a subscription channel bought exclusive live coverage. Conceding that the BBC faced new pressures when bidding for sporting contracts, Mr Wyatt said that there would be much more money made available, although he refused to specify the amount.

In a letter to *The Times* today, six senior executives of Britain's sports bodies strongly defend BSkyB's involvement, saying that it had broken "the cosy terrestrial duopoly", increased the financial benefits to sport and heightened media coverage.

Labour peers are optimistic they can defeat the Government but they concede that the weather may prove crucial.

Letters, page 19

MPs' pay inquiry to be announced

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A WIDE-RANGING independent inquiry into the pay, allowances and pensions of MPs and ministers is expected to be announced by the Government today.

The Senior Salaries Review Body, which already recommends pay levels for judges, senior civil servants and top military officers, is likely to be asked to report by June.

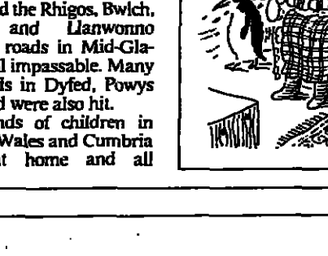
The announcement of the investigation by the body, led by Sir Michael Perry, head of Unilever, follows discussions over the past few days between the party leaderships and reflects their wish to defuse the present controversy over their salaries.

MPs have been accused by poverty groups of political insensitivity but most of them believe that pay must be improved if their parties are to attract parliamentary candidates of quality. While average pay has risen by 80 per cent over 30 years, MPs' salaries have remained static.

However, if the inquiry reports in the summer and recommends substantial rises, the Government is likely to face a difficult decision over whether to accept it in full, urge restraint or leave MPs to decide on it. In the past the Commons has overruled the Government's call for caution, most recently over a big increase in allowances in 1993.

Labour is keen for any decisions on pay to be to taken before the General Election.

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SHARP
INTELLIGENT THINKING

Colombo stumped as teams lose their nerve

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE cricket World Cup was thrown into turmoil yesterday when the West Indies joined Australia in asking that their games in Sri Lanka should be rescheduled because of fears for the safety of their teams.

With the 12-nation tournament being held in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the Indian section due to start on Sunday, the organisers are trying to balance the demands of the visiting teams and of the Sri Lankan Government. Colombo is outraged by the Australian and West Indian attitude.

After the terrorist bomb attack in Colombo last week that devastated the centre of the capital and killed more than 80 people and injured 1,400, Australia asked Pilcom, the three-country organising committee, to reschedule their match on February 17. When they refused, the Australians decided to forfeit the match.

The Australian action was followed by the West Indies Board of Control which asked for their fixture in Colombo, on February 25, to be moved to either India or Pakistan for the "safety and peace of mind" of their players.

The Sri Lankans have offered tight security of the sort usually reserved for heads of state if the two teams change their decision. Neither Zimbabwe nor Kenya, the other two nations due to play matches in Sri Lanka, have made any announcement about not fulfilling their fixtures.

Denis Rogers, the chairman of the Australian Cricket Board said there were legitimate fears for player safety, despite assurances from the Sri Lankan Government that maximum security would be provided to the teams and officials.

Lakshman Kadirgamar, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, said he had no sympathy for Shane Warne, the Australian leg-spinner, who said the team could be victims of a bomb if they went shopping. "There is no use going shopping in Colombo for a one-day match. Shopping is for sissies."

Mr Kadirgamar also said the Australians, if they wanted to, could stay in India or the Maldives instead of Colombo. Helicopters would fly them from the international airport to their hotel, 21 miles away, and on the day of the match. Even the route from the hotel to the nearby Premadasa Stadium would be declared out of bounds.

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World Cup chaos, page 48

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Questions move shamelessly from legover to rollover

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

It's official. Don't buy Edwina Currie's latest book. Madam Speaker says so. Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) started the trouble. Raising a point of order after questions yesterday, he asked the chair: "Is there anything you can do to dissuade Honourable Members of this House from writing works of fiction about our proceedings?

"There is a book that is currently being sold, written by the Hon Member for Derbyshire S [*Mrs Currie*] which more or less suggests that this place is full of Members drinking themselves into oblivion and bonking their eyeballs out.

"Unfortunately this isn't the case [*laughter*] and I do feel that we need to be protected from such unfounded allegations." There was a murmur of sympathy — as much, we regret to report, from her colleagues as from Labour.

Miss Boothroyd herself has surely not combed *A Woman's Place* for personal references. There can therefore be no connection between the answer she gave Mr Banks and the page in Mrs Currie's novel where the Commons Speaker is described as calling time after questions "like a Northern barmaid". So how would she reply to Banks?

"Don't buy it," she shrieked, "and don't read it."

If I have any sense of Currie's instinct for publicity, this will appear on the sleeve of the paperback edition of *A Woman's Place*, by Edwina Currie. "Tacky" — *Evening Standard*. "Don't buy it; don't read it" — Madam Speaker. It isn't the bonking or boozing stories that really infuriate Mrs Currie's colleagues. It's the fact that she's earning greater fame and more money than they, doing what they do but more shamelessly.

In Currie's spectacular talent for self-promotion they recognise what they, too, crave: but more timidly. What enrages more than a caricature of ourselves?

Sadly, Currie herself was not in the chamber for these jollities. Had the subject for Questions Arts and National Heritage driven her away? Did she perhaps fear an unfavourable comparison with Proust? She need not have feared. We move from legover to rollover. These days, MPs have virtually given up serious discussion of the arts, sport, or national heritage in their questions to the Secretary of State.

As elsewhere in Britain, nobody discusses anything but the National Lottery. Television viewers without satellite dishes may face a blackout on major sporting events; the Royal Opera may face a funding meltdown; galleries and museums cry out for cash: and the Greeks want the Elgin Marbles back . . . but all MPs want to talk about is scratchcards, double-rollovers and Mystic Meg.

Of the 27 questions down for answer yesterday, questions 5-7, 12-17, 20, 22-25, and 27 were about the lottery. Even the man who started it, Peter Brooke, the former Heritage Secretary, is getting nervous. Yesterday he asked his successor, Virginia Bottomley, whether "she feels pleasure at, or concern about, the fact that more than half the questions on the order paper are about the National Lottery?" Mrs Bottomley took this vinegar for wine, and burbled merrily away about what an *immense* success the Lottery was.

But then you could hand Mrs Bottomley a sackful of jelly babies and she would burble merrily away about the huge increase in the number of jelly babies under the Conservatives. The more I see of this woman's ability to burble merrily away about anything which comes to hand, the more considerable a political talent I recognise.

Fraud police poised to launch inquiry into rail claims

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND JAMES LANDALE

BRITISH Transport Police is prepared to launch a full criminal investigation into allegations of ticket fraud at LTS Rail, the train franchise that was pulled from the brink of privatisation at the weekend.

The force's fraud squad has had talks with British Rail officials who are carrying out an inquiry. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told MPs that BR "won't hesitate to call in the British Transport Police if that seems appropriate in the light of their investigations".

MPs were also told that the franchise for the London, Tilbury and Southend line — which had gone to a management buyout team — may be put out to tender again. Sir George said the decision would be taken by Roger Salmon, who is the franchising director.

The Transport Secretary had earlier celebrated the successful sell-off of the first two franchises, South West Trains and Great Western, during a ceremony at Waterloo station, London. Hundreds of thousands of commuters travelled to work on the privatised rail services for the first time yesterday. Sir George said: "We have reached a truly historic point in the revival of Britain's railways."

Three investigations are under way into the claims that LTS Rail ticket staff were involved in a scheme to divert up to £50,000 of revenue from London Underground to the franchise. The scheme is said to have started when the LTS management was awarded the franchise in December.

The results of the inquiries — by John Swift, the Rail Regulator, BR and London Underground — are expected later this week and the Government hopes to be able to proceed with the sale of LTS next month.

Mr Swift said: "It is very important that those taking over the stewardship of assets being transferred from the public sector to the private sector are, and are seen to be, acting in the public interest."

Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions, is considering a letter from Brian Wilson, Labour's rail spokesman, in which he demands "a full police inquiry into the allegations of fraud" at LTS.

Colin Andrews, LTS commercial director, has already resigned and Ian Burton, the retail manager, was suspended yesterday.

The buyout's backers, the venture capital groups 3i and Gresham Trust, were standing by the management team yesterday. "We have not withdrawn our backing as yet as we are waiting the outcome of the investigations," Paul Murray, of 3i, said.



Young: said "BR won't hesitate to call in police"

The Government is believed to favour awarding the franchise to the second-placed bid if the management buyout cannot proceed. Two of the defeated bidders for LTS Rail, Prism and GB Railways, said yesterday that they would be interested in rebidding if the management buyout were abandoned. "We are watching developments with interest," Kenneth Irvine, chairman of Prism, said.

Answering an emergency question yesterday, Sir George assured the Commons there was "no question of financial irregularities being tolerated in a modern railway, whether it is publicly owned or privately owned".

Pressure to reopen the tendering process came from Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary. "Will you now give us an undertaking that the offer to allow this management team to run this service will be withdrawn, because they have shown themselves to be a corrupt management team . . .?" Amid Tory protests, she added: ". . . if the allegations are true."

Sir George said a routine audit had disclosed the irregularities. But last night an anti-privatisation campaigner, Keith Bill, said that an LTS employee had told BR of the alleged fraud.

The claims are said to centre on the re-issuing of tickets at a station used both by mainline and Tube trains. London Underground is said to have been deprived of a portion of the fare — estimated to total £30,000 a month.

London Underground managers were last night said to be increasingly concerned that the financial irregularities uncovered could be repeated at stations across the network.

The company fears that private rail operators could be tempted to "launder" sales of London Transport passes through stations such as Surbiton, Surrey, where the operator is allocated the bulk of the revenue. "We are now checking carefully to see if there are any areas where we may be exposed to risks in order to make sure we have robust procedures in place to avoid similar potential losses to those alleged," London Underground said.

TIM CUFF



Paddy Ashdown announcing libel proceedings against the *Western Daily Press*

Ashdown sues over 'smear'

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN issued libel proceedings yesterday against a regional newspaper that published allegations about his personal life. The Liberal Democrat leader also vowed to tackle head-on the "scourge of terrorisation and intimidation" in his Somerset constituency and said he was determined that criminals in Yeovil would be brought to book.

Mr Ashdown condemned the article in the *Western Daily Press* as "utterly disgraceful". He told a press conference: "My solicitor is in touch with them and libel proceedings will be issued." Mr Ashdown declined to discuss the allegations. Mr Ashdown was warned by police at the weekend that he is facing a vendetta by some of his constituents.

Recent attacks on Mr Ashdown include the firebombing of his Vauxhall Senator car last week, threatening letters and an incident when he was allegedly held at knifepoint in Yeovil late at night. At one stage the police set up surveillance equipment in the garden of his thatched cottage in Norton sub Hamdon.

He is due to appear in court this Thursday as a witness against a man accused of assault on him. The defendant is likely to ask for reporting restrictions to be lifted. Mr Ashdown has been involved in investigations concerning alleged race attacks in restaurants, but the police say there is no racial motive in any of the incidents they are studying.

Yesterday Mr Ashdown said: "I am not prepared to be dissuaded from taking action. That is what the town has suffered from for so long."

Three local men have been arrested in connection with the firebomb attack.

Scott to retaliate over denigration of report

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Richard Scott will tomorrow enter the propaganda war over his report into the arms-to-Iraq affair with a plea to John Major to treat his findings "without preconception".

In his first public utterance since completing the report, he will show his anger at attempts to discredit his conclusions before publication next week. Sir Richard will also counter-attack Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Foreign Secretary, and others who have criticised his methods.

The judge's warning to the Government not to play party politics with his report will come in an interview to be broadcast on the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme on the day the 1,800-page document is delivered to Downing Street.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, is to voice Labour's dismay that while the Government will get eight days to prepare a defence, the Opposition will not see the vast report until half an hour before it is presented to the Commons, on February 15 — apparently for legal reasons. The report is being published under the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act to prevent Sir Richard being sued for libel.

Labour is also unhappy that the judge has decided not to produce a summary of the report. Sir Richard's judgements are regarded in legal circles as being woven — sometimes obscurely — into a long narrative. A source close to the inquiry said that there would be "a highlighting of conclusions" and an index.

The Government will produce its own summary and Labour believes that ministers hope to blur the criticisms, garnering favourable news coverage before anyone outside Whitehall has had the opportunity to digest the report. By the time politicians and journalists have chewed over the small print, the Opposition fears that public interest may have waned and those likely to be most criticised in the report — William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General — may keep their jobs.

£40m wrongly paid to training schemes

More than £40 million was wrongly paid by the Department of Employment to government training programmes last year, the public spending watchdog has found. Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, said he was "concerned" at the errors, an increase of more than £11 million on the previous year.

He warned the department, now combined with education, that he would scrutinise next year's accounts to check controls had improved. Almost half of the overpayments were made to training and enterprise councils. The rest were wrongly paid to individuals on the Training for Work and Learning for Work programmes.

Child bride stays put

Sarah Cook, the 13-year-old from Essex who went through an Islamic wedding ceremony with an unemployed Turkish waiter she met on a family holiday, decided yesterday to postpone coming home for least another night. Sarah, who was due back in Britain last night, is still in the village of Kahramanmaras in southeast Turkey, where she has been living with her "husband's" family. Musa Komeagac, 18, was arrested and charged with statutory rape two weeks after the service. He is due in court again on February 15.

Scratchcards proliferate

Four big charities launched their own scratchcards yesterday in direct competition to Camelot, the National Lottery operator. Age Concern, Cancer Research Campaign, Scope and the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children joined forces, under a scheme called Partners in Action, to raise £4 million this year from the sale of more than 16 million £1 scratchcards. The top prize will be £50,000. The cards will be issued both collectively and individually under the name of each of the four charities.

Benefit cut setback

The Government's move to withdraw welfare benefits from most asylum seekers suffered a setback yesterday when a judge allowed a High Court challenge to go ahead tomorrow. Mr Justice Brooke agreed to allow the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants to apply for judicial review of the new benefit regulations, which are designed to save £200 million a year. However, he refused to allow a stay on the introduction of the rules, which came into force yesterday and are intended to stop bogus claims.

Lost job appeal

A headmaster has claimed he was wrongfully and unfairly sacked after allegedly failing to account for almost £2,000 from the sale of school uniforms a few months after he was awarded an OBE for services to education. Chris Hampson, 52, was dismissed last year from St James Church of England secondary school in Farnworth, Greater Manchester. An industrial tribunal in Manchester was told yesterday that Mr Hampson allegedly stole £1,988 in commission from the sales. The hearing continues.

Kents to pay reward

A Brighton antiques dealer can expect a "substantial" reward after handing porcelain figures stolen from the Duke and Duchess of Kent's home to the police. The unnamed dealer saw a picture of the pair of Chinese pheasants and realising they were identical to the pair he had just given to Sotheby's, the auction house, for valuation, he alerted Sussex Police. They have interviewed several people in connection with the find. The Kents are offering an undisclosed sum for the recovery of missing items.

Queen 'should repent'

A Free Presbyterian minister in the Outer Hebrides has called on the Queen to "kneel down and repent of her sins" because he claims she has broken her vow to be faithful to the Protestant religion. The Rev Kenneth MacLeod, of Leverburgh, a leading churchman on the Isle of Harris, says in the *Free Presbyterian* magazine that God has been "conspicuously dishonoured" by the Queen's attendance at ecumenical services and at a Roman Catholic service taken by Cardinal Hume at Westminster Cathedral last year.

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Hospital issues two-tier waiting lists

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A HOSPITAL in Sheffield is offering to treat patients referred by GP fundholders up to four times more quickly than those from non-fundholding GPs.

Patients requiring hip replacement surgery at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital have to wait 52 weeks if they are referred by a non-fundholding GP but can get their operation in 12 weeks if they are referred by a fundholder.

The disclosure, on the eve of a government debate on GP fundholding in the Commons, was seized on by Labour as the clearest evidence so far of the two-tier service ushered in by NHS reform. It follows reports last week that Glasgow Royal Infirmary was offering speedier treatment to patients of fundholder GPs.

The Central Sheffield University Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes the Royal Hallamshire, has issued a table of prospective waiting times to GPs and health authorities which shows that the waiting time for cardiology is 26 weeks for patients from non-fundholders and 12 weeks from fundholders. For neurology it is 38 and 14 weeks respectively.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, said: "We must have a health service which treats people on the basis of their clinical need and not on the purchasing power of the health authority."

MP tells judges to stop sniping

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE MP who chairs the influential Home Affairs Select Committee has warned judges that they will lose public respect if they continue to criticise the Government.

In the latest comment in the dispute between judges and the Home Secretary over plans for tougher sentencing, Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, said that judges should not make public criticism of government policy.

"If the judges want to express their views, they can express them through all sorts of channels, privately and quietly, and it might have more effect." He added that, even if the proposals were defeated in the Lords, the Commons would seek to reverse that defeat "as we did with the War Crimes Bill".

The judges, he said, had to realise that "they don't make the law, Parliament makes the law and the reason why the Home Secretary might want such laws is that he is accountable to Parliament and to the people in the way that the judges are not."

He added: "People ought to look up to judges. They are outside the political arena; they are not the ones who make the law but they are the ones we should look up to for enforcing it. But once they come out into public and start rowing with the Government on something on which the public is on the Government's side, the public will think less of the judges."

An array of senior judges have attacked Mr Howard's plans for tougher sentencing, to be outlined in a White Paper this spring. They include Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice; Lord Justice Rose, a Court of Appeal judge; Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls; and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Lord Chancellor.

Law, pages 37, 39

Ministers believe Province will vote within months

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GROWING confidence that elections paving the way to all-party talks in Northern Ireland will be held within months was voiced by senior ministers yesterday after John Major completed his first round of talks with the political leaders.

The Government believes that, in spite of their initial strong reservations, the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, Sinn Fein and the Irish Government will eventually come round to elections as the "passport" to talks.

An informed ministerial source likened the current round of discussions to people "dancing round the bonfire, poking at the flames". He said that eventually they would go along with elections and that both Sinn Fein and the SDLP had been careful not to rule out taking part.

Even so, ministers are taking seriously the warnings of a potential split within the IRA over the peace process. "We know that 30 per cent of them were against it in the first place — it is always a risk. But we think that is another reason why Sinn Fein will want to use the elections route."

Mr Major met John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance party, yesterday. The political leaders will now have detailed talks with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and his deputy Michael Ancram, before having a second round of discussions with Mr Major.

Mr Alderdice said the meeting had been "very encouraging and worthwhile". He had urged Mr Major to seek elections "as quickly as is humanly possible" and to reassure nationalists that they would lead to serious all-party negotiations. Dr Alderdice said he wanted to see elections by April or May.

☐ A fierce row has broken out within the Northern Ireland Police Authority over proposals to reform the Royal Ulster Constabulary to make the force more acceptable to Roman Catholics.

Unionist members of the authority have threatened to table motions of no confidence in David Cook, the chairman of the authority, over his plans to question the RUC's use of British symbols.

In a forthcoming report Mr Cook is expected to say that if the RUC is to create a neutral working environment it must examine issues such as flying the Union flag.

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Professor rediscovers rocky landscapes immortalised in galleries across the world

Art detective uncovers Cézanne's inspirations

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

AN AMERICAN scholar who has spent 30 years following in the footsteps of Cézanne has tracked down the settings for a dozen of his best-known paintings.

Pavel Machotka, Professor of Psychology and Art at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has dated and retitled some pictures after finding locations in Provence and on the outskirts of Paris.

One of his discoveries, as he travelled through France seeking to match hundreds of photocopied images toplaces, was that a church which had long been assumed to be in Aix-en-Provence was at Montigny-sur-Loing, in the north.

For decades, its ambiguous title was no more than *Village Church*. Professor Machotka said that it could have been any one of a hundred similar churches in France. Drawing on the locals for guidance, his detective work led him to the building.

As a surprising number of landscapes have remained as Cézanne would have known them, the professor was able to find clusters of trees or groups of stone houses set against rocky landscapes, and to take colour photographs of them in the same light that Cézanne painted them.



Cézanne: self-portrait

He recalled how he found the *Rocks at Estaque*, sculpted by nature: "The rock formation had never been seen before. It was obviously a bay at Marseilles, but nobody had found the formation. The motif is unchanged except for high-tension wires. It was extraordinary. I was looking at what Cézanne was looking at. After several hours of climbing, I had found the site."

The professor's findings are published this week by Yale University Press, coinciding with the exhibition at the Tate Gallery that opens on Thursday. The first Cézanne retrospective since 1936, it is expected to be one of the gallery's most successful shows.

First Call, the advance booking agency, has already broken records set by ticket sales for the Monet exhibition and the Tate is preparing for some 300,000 visitors, at a conservative estimate. Cézanne sold barely any of his works and was not given a solo show until he in his late fifties. Matisse would have thought the show was long overdue: in his eyes, Cézanne was a "god of painting".

Among some 90 paintings and 70 watercolours to be seen at the Tate are images that Professor Machotka matched to their locations. Using colour photographs, he was able to explore physical surface, colour relationships and the extent to which Cézanne was painting exactly what his eye was seeing.

"Cézanne had a passionate attachment to visual reality," he said, "Unlike other scholars who have viewed Cézanne as an early Cubist, I view him as a painter determined to extract as many visual resonances between the components of the motifs as possible."

For example, in taking a colour photograph of *La Montagne Saint-Victoire* at 9.30am, something that had never been done before, he was able to show the gradual progression of colours from blues to greens which the master subtly incorporated into his painting and the shadows which he transformed into dramatic diagonal, semi-abstract lines.

In *The Lake at Annecy*, one of Cézanne's most famous images, lent by the Courtauld Institute Galleries to the Tate, Professor Machotka's first photograph of the scene shows how similar it is today. A composition that was formerly titled *La Saint-Victoire, Environs de Gardanne*, he has retitled as *Hamlet near Gardanne*. He was able to pinpoint its isolated location "by searching for places where a hillside might converge with the foot of the Sainte-Victoire; by a gradual approximation, I eventually found the hamlet at the end of a narrow road. Cézanne placed his easel at the edge of a field." He added that judging by the low sun and the brown meadows, Cézanne had painted it late in the year and at 10.30am.

The professor said: "A photograph of the site of a well-known painting arouses our curiosity right away: it breaks open the sealed world of the landscape canvas, situates the artist in a place and a moment, and reminds us that an artist searches, gazes, at times dissssembles, and recombines. It also encourages the hope that we will better understand the artist's purpose and vision."

It was impossible to find some sites, particularly those in Paris, which had changed beyond recognition, or the town of St Henri, near Marseilles, whose charming streets had been bulldozed to make way for motorways.



Top: vaguely titled as *Village Church*, the scene at Montigny-sur-Loing. Above: the Courtauld's *Lake at Annecy*

Guppy freed after compensating Lloyd's for fraud

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

DARIUS GUPPY was freed from jail yesterday after paying a large sum of compensation to Lloyd's insurers, whom he defrauded of £1.8 million.

Guppy, 30, left Ford open prison in Sussex shortly after 8am after serving almost three years of a jail term imposed for staging a "bogus" gems robbery in New York.

The old Etonian, an Oxford graduate, was released from jail after paying part of a £227,000 compensation order imposed by Redbridge magistrates last July. The court had ordered him to serve two years and nine months' further imprisonment after he failed to pay the cash.

David Reynolds, a solicitor representing Lloyd's insurers, said last night: "He has paid the funds due under the compensation order."

It is understood that Guppy, of Notting Hill, west London, did not pay the full amount, as the final sum takes into account the time he has served in prison since last July.

Under the terms of the deal, Guppy has also reached a deal with his Trustee in Bankruptcy to provide further payments to Lloyd's of London and his other creditors. Mr Reynolds said: "He has agreed to pay further sums in due course. I cannot tell you how much. There is a confidentiality clause."

Earlier civil proceedings against Guppy had been settled after he pledged to pay the compensation plus £250,000 after his release. He hoped to earn the moneh from writing and interviews with the media.

Guppy, who is a friend of Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales, was driven from the prison for a reunion with his wife Patricia and the couple's daughter Isabella.

He had been convicted with his co-accused Benedict Marsh at Snaresbrook Crown Court in February 1993 for faking a jewellery robbery in New York in 1990 and claiming £1.8 million insurance. He was sentenced to five years and a further three were imposed after he failed to pay the compensation.

At his trial he was said to have boasted of pulling of the "perfect crime". Guppy set up the fraud with Marsh, a friend from Oxford. The two were partners in a firm, Inca Gemstones, and while in New York in 1990 paid an associated £10,000 to tie them up and supposedly rob them at gunpoint.

It fooled New York police and insurance loss adjusters. After returning to London, the pair presented false invoices for £1.8 million worth of stones and were paid by a number of underwriting syndicates within a week. The following day, Guppy and Marsh flew to New York to retrieve the jewels from a safe deposit box.

Guppy had been best man at Earl Spencer's wedding, and the earl put up half of Guppy's £500,000 bail when he and Marsh were arrested in 1991 for the gems fraud.

Guppy, who had studied for his degree at Magdalen College, was reported to have converted to Islam while in Sudbury prison near Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Guppy said that every morning he read prayers with a group of Muslims at the jail.

His family's origins are Iranian. His wife is a Roman Catholic from Sunderland.



Guppy: served almost three years in jail

Man jailed 18 years after killing father

A TEENAGER who endured a childhood of "staggering evil" killed his violent, bullying father and buried his body in the cellar where the remains lay undiscovered for 17 years, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Stephen French kept a promise to his mother that he would admit what he had done only after she died. When she died of a heart attack he made an oblique reference to the killing at her funeral, the court was told.

It was not until he was in prison on remand for robberies that he called police to his cell and described how, when he was 14, he shot his father as he slept and put his dismembered body into two oil drums at the family home in Rochester, Kent. When they moved house three months later to Forest Gate, east London, the drums went too and were buried in the cellar.

French, 32, denied murdering his father, Peter Leslie, but admitted manslaughter. He also pleaded guilty to a string of robberies, attempted robberies and escaping from custody. He was jailed for a total of 18 years.

The court was told that French, his mother and three elder brothers and sisters were beaten and threatened by the powerfully built Leslie, nicknamed "Gypsy Pete", who was obsessed with guns. He knocked out his children's teeth, blacked their eyes and broke their ribs.

Once he forced the young French to eat a meal of kitchen waste that included dog food, bleach and sink cleaner. French wept in the dock as Rock Tansey, QC, in mitigation, said: "It was a childhood of staggering evil which affected French throughout his adult life."

Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, accepted that French had had an appalling childhood "but that did not justify the solution". He jailed him for five years for manslaughter, 12 for the robberies and a further year for escaping.

Hi-tech drivers locked out

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

MOTORISTS are being locked out of their cars by radio hams, the Automobile Association disclosed yesterday. The hams' broadcasts can jam remote locking devices that beam coded radio signals to the car.

The AA said that it had recently been called out to help scores of members in Buckinghamshire who had found themselves unable to open or shut their cars.

Dave Lang, the association's chief engineer, said: "The European radio authorities have allowed car manufacturers to use a frequency for their remote control keys that was already allocated to radio hams. "When a radio ham is transmitting, the signal is so strong that in some cases motorists near by cannot activate their car's central locking, alarm or immobiliser systems."

Mr Lang said research was urgently needed on car security systems to minimise interference.

A radio ham can use up to 100 watts of radio frequency power to transmit all over the world. Remote control keys use up to 0.01 of a watt and work over a range of 5 to 15 metres.

According to the AA, the only solution for a car immobilised by a blocked radio beam is to be towed outside the influence of the radio ham's transmitter. The remote control devices come with a metal key, but that is for turning on the ignition only. Trying to use the key to open the door will trigger the vehicle's alarm system.

A spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said: "It is a recognised problem but we are hardly at panic stations."

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Helpline staff struggle to prevent smear tests panic

BY ADRIAN LEE AND JEREMY LAURANCE

FRESH doubts about the accuracy of cervical screening tests carried out on millions of women were raised yesterday as a hospital disclosed that it would re-examine 70,000 cervical smears because of an unacceptable error rate.

The Kent and Canterbury Hospital was deluged with calls from hundreds of anxious women after it revealed that its detection rate for abnormal smears had fallen below the expected standard. Instead of picking up between 85 per cent and 95 per cent of abnormalities, over five years its detection rate was between 65 per cent and 75 per cent. A helpline set up to deal with the alarm had taken more than 1,000 calls by early evening. A team of 40 operators is telling women that the results of every screening made between 1990 and 1995 will be re-examined. They will be contacted by letter within 14 days. The check of all results will cost at least £140,000, and it is expected that about 350 women given a clean bill of health will now be told they are in the risk category.

The case is the latest in a series of scandals involving smears being inadequately taken or read which has undermined public confidence. Failures at the Canterbury hospital were attributed to inadequate training and experience of laboratory staff and had been uncovered during routine checks. Doctors said it was likely that other hospitals had similar error rates.

The national screening programme began in 1988, offering tests every three or five years to women aged 20 to 64. After five years of the programme the number of women screened was 80 per cent of the age group, with 4,000 cases of invasive cancer and 18,000 cases of pre-cancer being detected annually. About 1,000 to 2,000 lives a year are saved. In 1994, after it was found that several smears were unreadable and that there were local variations in the proportion of abnormalities, the national co-ordinating team for breast screening took over administration. Laboratories have received guidelines.

However, Julietta Patnick, national co-ordinator of the cervical screening programme said that a detection rate of between 65 per cent and 75 per cent was unusually low. Laboratories were expected to compare their results with the national guidelines and investigate discrepancies. "What has happened at Canterbury is a symptom of things being put right. If we didn't look we wouldn't find anything wrong."

The hospital said the threat to health was "minimal" because the wrongly diagnosed smears showed early abnormalities and cervical cancer normally takes between 10 and 15 years to develop. Dr Kate Neales, consultant gynaecologist at the 428-bed hospital, said: "We are not looking at one individual who has failed. If anything it is a systems failure."

Women may have to wait months for the results. Dr Neales said: "It is extremely unlikely that any of these women have cervical cancer."

The problem came to light in October when analysts took the test results of a handful of women with abnormal smears and compared them with their last normal test. Some, supposedly normal smears were found to have abnormalities when re-examined.

After that random exercise, another 10,909 smear tests were independently reassessed at laboratories in Birmingham and Manchester and 89 mistakes found. Now all 70,000 tests will be re-screened in batches of 10,000 at a time. The screening, which costs £100 million a year nationally, involves taking cells from the neck of the womb. Deaths from cervical cancer in England and Wales fell from 1,485 in 1993 to 1,369 in 1994. In east Kent there were 19 deaths in 1993 and the figure is falling in line with the rest of the country.

Helpline callers were told the risk was minimal but women in Canterbury did not seem reassured. Christine McKay, 29, who had her last smear test 18 months ago, said: "They say not to worry but how do you know? You would have thought in this day and age they could get things right."

Gill Nicholls, 37, said: "I have had two smears and I feel really uptight about this. I feel angry that they have not done their job properly and that women who thought they were in the clear might have to wait months to find out."

The helpline number is 01227 766016.



Conservationists hope the poisoned food will enable the red squirrel, left, to survive at the expense of its grey cousin

Wildlife saviours to poison squirrels

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

GREY squirrels are to be poisoned by conservationists in an experiment aimed at saving the rapidly dwindling native red squirrel.

Food laced with warfarin, which kills by causing internal haemorrhaging, will be placed in special hoppers on Anglesey. Previously the Ministry of Agriculture has prohibited the poisoning of greys for fear that reds might also die. But the Forestry Commission has designed a feeding hopper with a flap-door that it believes only the stronger greys can open. There are about 1,000 grey squirrels on the Welsh island, compared with 50 reds.

Malcolm Smith, director of science and policy at the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "This project is the only way we have left permanently to conserve a red squirrel population in southern Britain. Without it, we believe our native red faces extinction, eventually throughout the country. We know that many people will be unhappy but we are not trying to eradicate greys. The aim is to keep their numbers to a level that permits co-existence with reds."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said: "We would much prefer the squirrels to be trapped in cages and humanely dispatched, but we recognise that such a method would be far more expensive and time-consuming."

Surgeon sues over Dr Dolittle tag

BY RICHARD DUCE

A DOCTOR told a High Court libel trial yesterday that he became the sacrificial lamb in an attempt by Virginia Bottomley to deflect criticism from a national shortage of neuro-surgical beds after a patient was flown 200 miles.

Anthony Percy, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, became known as Dr Dolittle in the *Daily Mirror* after he was criticised in an internal investigation for failing to attend the Queen Mary Hospital, Sidcup, where Malcolm Murray, 45, was taken with serious head injuries. He was flown to hospital in Leeds but subsequently died.

Mr Percy, 55, advised from his home by telephone late at night that efforts should be made to trace a bed elsewhere because there was no clinical help he could offer.

Mr Percy is suing Mirror Group Newspapers for libel over the article published on March 29 last year and two further reports in the same newspaper. The publisher denies libel and the trial continues today.

Rig to be broken up on land

Shell UK announced yesterday that it will break up a North Sea gas platform on land at a cost of £11 million. The 6,000-tonne Leman BK platform stands 45 miles off Lowestoft, Suffolk.

In June Royal Dutch/Shell abandoned plans to scuttle the Brent Spar oil platform in the Atlantic after it was occupied by Greenpeace.

GP reprimanded

A GP who let his unqualified son treat patients at his surgery in Whitehaven, Cumbria, was reprimanded by the General Medical Council. Brian Moss, 53, wrongly believed that Bruce had started at medical college.

Case dropped

Klaus Wagner, who was arrested outside the Princess of Wales's fitness club last month, is not to be prosecuted. The Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence to substantiate a charge of obstruction.

Illegal line up

An Oxford University student fitted an illegal line to make £10,826 of calls to his Hong Kong family. Kar-Wing May, 28, admitted dishonestly obtaining a telephone service. He will be sentenced later by Oxford magistrates.

Fat cat sacked

A hospital cat that sits on patients' laps and helps them to relax needs a new home because he weighs two stone. A spokesman for Knowle Hospital in Fareham, Hampshire, said: "Patients can't pick him up any more."

CORRECTIONS

☐ In the obituary of Marcia Davenport (January 31) the date of her mother's wedding was wrongly given as 1906. In fact, Alma Hersohn married Bernard Gluck in 1902.

☐ The London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* is published by Jane's Information Group (report, January 27).

Victims of malaria pill start legal fight

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

MORE than 130 people began a legal action yesterday against the manufacturer of a widely used anti-malaria drug that can cause serious psychological side-effects.

The number involved in the group claim for compensation from the maker of Lariam has almost doubled since two news reports in *The Times* last month highlighted the dangers. Christiane Goaziou, the solicitor who is heading the action against Roche, the manufacturer, said: "We realise that this is a David and Goliath battle but we will still try to win."

Last night the BBC1 programme *Watchdog* produced further evidence of the drug's side-effects, which in the most extreme cases can include manic depression, fits and panic attacks.

Sue Woodford, who is married to the Labour peer Lord Hollick, told the programme: "I got very frightened. The reaction was so extreme. I thought I was having a brain haemorrhage. *This* was the effect of taking just one pill."

Roche says that its research indicates only one in 10,000 users has serious side-effects, although more than 20 per cent experience a lesser reaction. "Serious" is defined as death, hospitalisation or disability.

Doctors continue to prescribe Lariam for travellers to equatorial Africa, the Far East and the Caribbean because it is by far the most effective anti-malaria drug, working in 95 per cent of all cases. Last year 11 British travellers died from malaria.

In a statement last night Roche said: "Effective drugs have side-effects. Roche Products has always stated that Lariam can cause a range of side-effects and the product data sheet says that the incidence of such side-effects is known to be 22 per cent."

The company said that it was in continuous discussions with the British regulatory authority. "If, in the course of that dialogue it is considered appropriate to make any changes to the product information, those changes will be made."

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Shephard hails triumph for champions of selective entry and hints at more to come

Education crusader singles out 200 beacons of excellence

By David Charter and John O'Leary



Anthony: independent schools unfairly omitted

CHRIS WOODHEAD, the Chief Inspector of Schools, held up 200 schools as beacons of excellence yesterday and urged thousands to follow their example in a crusade to raise standards. For the first time, he listed the best schools visited by inspectors in the past year, handing a publicity coup to supporters of selective education.

As disclosed by *The Times* last month, grammar schools dominated the education "Oscars" given to outstandingly successful secondary schools, accounting for 22 of the 32 awards. Nine comprehensives and one city technology college also featured.

The report also named 70 good and improving secondary schools, 84 excellent primary and middle schools, five excellent nursery schools and ten "highly effective" special schools.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, promised to congratulate the "success stories" at a party later this year, but said there was still a long way to go. "We cannot ignore the chief inspector's judgment that overall standards of pupil achievement need to be raised in half our primary schools and two-fifths of our secondary schools."

Independent schools complained they had been left out even though they are also examined by Ofsted, the inspection agency.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said: "If it is right and proper for Ofsted to inspect a given proportion of independent schools, then surely they must be treated in the same way when it comes to recording good results and inspections. Schools that are surely by anyone's reckoning among the best in the country are not on the list."

Ofsted gave very good reports to four schools which are members of the conference last year: Westminster, Shrewsbury, King Edward's in Birmingham and the City of London School.

A spokesman for Ofsted said: "We have only managed to inspect about 20 independent schools this year and it would have been ridiculous to set them against the 3,500 inspected in the state sector."

One in three of the grammars inspected was said to be outstanding compared with one in 50 comprehensives. More than half the top schools are single-sex, with ten girls-only and eight boys. Thirteen outstanding secondaries are grant-maintained.

Mr Woodhead said the appearance of so many grammars in the list was explained largely by their selective intake. Mrs Shephard said she had "absolutely no problem" with more selection, and the presence of grammar, specialist and grant-maintained schools among the success stories vindicated the Government's belief that choice and diversity contributed to excellence.

Mr Woodhead said the top schools were chosen because they also offered a "rounded development" with exceptional out-of-hours activities, and entered at least 95 per cent of pupils for GCSEs, achieving an average points score equivalent to at least nine GCSE grade C passes each.

His annual report highlighted success in difficult circumstances. Sudbourne Primary School, in Lambeth local authority in Brixton, was named an excellent primary. Yet in October Mr Woodhead ordered an inspection blitz on every school in the south London borough after one in three was found to be failing.

Sudbourne is just a mile from one of the worst schools seen by inspectors, Mostyn Gardens, where every subject apart from music was substandard and one child was found by inspectors not to have spoken for three years.

Inspectors pointed to Sudbourne's long-serving "calm and greatly admired" head teacher, a caring atmosphere and enthusiasm for books among the pupils. The school puts pupils in sets according to ability in reading and mathematics, and encourages children to recite their times tables.

The Ecclesbourne School, a comprehensive grant-maintained school in Duffield, near Derby, was awarded a place among the elite secondary schools. Dr Robert Dupey, the head teacher who has been in post for 20 years, pointed to tried and tested teaching methods for the school's all-round high standards.

Dr Dupey said: "I have seen lots of heads who move in, do their thing and move out again, leaving their mistakes behind. The only dogma here is about doing the best for the young people."

Chris Woodhead, page 18
Leading article, page 19

PETER NICHOLLS



Children at Sudbourne Primary School in Brixton, which puts children in sets according to ability. It was praised for its excellent standards

OUTSTANDING SECONDARY SCHOOLS

These schools entered at least 95 per cent of their pupils for GCSE, achieved well above average in the proportion getting five high-grade passes and an average of at least nine passes at grade C. They had excellent inspection reports and exceptional extra-curricular provision.

Alcester Grammar, Warwickshire
Altrincham Grammar for Girls, Trafford
Arden, Solihull
Aylesbury Grammar, Bucks
Barton Court Grammar, Canterbury, Kent
Camden School for Girls, London
Cape Cornwall, Truro
Chelmsford High for Girls, Essex
Colyton Grammar, Devon
Copthall, Barnet, London
Dartford Grammar, Kent
Dr Challoner's Grammar, Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Ecclesbourne, Belper, Derbyshire
Emmanuel CTC, Gateshead
Harrogate Grammar
Heckmondwike Grammar, Kirklees
Invicta Grammar for Girls, Maidstone, Kent
Kendrick Girls' Grammar, Reading
King Edward VI, Handsworth, Birmingham
Presdales, Ware, Hertfordshire
Queen Elizabeth's Boys', Barnet
Ringmer Community College, Lewes, East Sussex
Royal Grammar, High Wycombe
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar, Aylesbury
St Thomas More Catholic High, Crewe
Grammar School for Girls, Wilmington, Kent
The Henrietta Barnett School, Barnet
The King's School, Grantham
The Liverpool Blue Coat
N Halifax Grammar, Illingworth, Calderdale
West Kirby Grammar for Girls, Wirral
Westcliff High for Boys, Essex

Inspectors to identify poor staff

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

INSPECTORS' reports will provide head teachers and governors with new information to help to dismiss incompetent teachers from April.

The latest annual report suggested there were up to 15,000 poor teachers, and 48,000 that could be considered "first-rate".

The new inspection framework will oblige teams from Ofsted to name outstanding teachers and those regarded as particularly weak. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said it would be up to heads and governors to decide how to use the information: many would offer extra training and support before considering dismissal.

Allowing for appeals, the dismissal process can take up to a year once governors have decided that it is the only option. Labour has promised to speed dismissal procedures but has given no details of its plans.

Report identifies problem years of failure from 7 to 12



Woodhead: urges action

By Our Education Editor

THE later years of primary education and the start of secondary school are identified as the problem years of state education in Chris Woodhead's annual report.

An analysis of the biggest ever pool of information assembled on schools shows a dip in standards between the ages of seven and twelve. The 3,500 inspections undertaken in 1994-95 showed more lessons taught poorly to that age group, confirming weaknesses exposed in last month's test results. With basic literacy and numeracy causing most concern, Mr Woodhead lays most of the blame on poor teaching. "Many schools need to tackle urgently mediocre and poor standards by reviewing the quality and consistency of teaching in order to set and achieve higher targets."

The Office for Standards in Education, which Mr Woodhead leads, is launching an inquiry into the teaching of mathematics, reflecting fears that too little time is dedicated to arithmetic. Yesterday's report also suggests that the teaching of reading contains too little emphasis on phonic skills. Mr Woodhead finds "disturbing" shortages of books and materials in one in seven primary schools and one in four secondary. "Teachers who lack proper resources or who work in poor buildings experience problems which ... at worst defeat their best efforts to do a decent job."

But he says that poor teaching can be found in the best equipped schools. Some resource problems flow from spending decisions by local authorities and schools themselves, not government funding. Other inquiries will examine the distribution of resources and local authority effectiveness in raising standards in schools.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the report showed that the quality of teaching and leadership, not resourcing, were the key to quality. "There is no comfort in this verdict for anybody who wants to hide behind a lack of resources for giving a less than competent lesson."

Although the proportion of unsatisfactory lessons appears to have dropped to about one in five, most statistics in the report point to broadly similar levels of underachievement to previous years. Standards of teaching and achievement are "satisfactory or better" in most schools, Mr Woodhead says.

Inspectors found standards of reading required "considerable improvement" in one in ten primary schools, and of writing in one in seven. In the early secondary years, they found under-achievement in one in five schools. In mathematics, pupils performed well in just over two fifths of primary schools and about half of secondary schools. But by age 11, inspectors found "too many pupils remained reliant on their fingers for counting, are unable to use a ruler correctly and are wild in making estimations".

Mr Woodhead said the good news in his report was that some schools were achieving so well, including many in unpromising circumstances. "The bad is that there are still too many which are failing to give their pupils a satisfactory education."

In many junior schools, teachers showed insufficient knowledge of their subject, inadequate planning, a failure to stretch pupils and left them too much to their own devices.

Good secondaries and excellent primaries

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Very large majority of pupils entered for GCSE; increased the proportion getting five A-C grade passes by more than the national average; increase of more than 10 percentage points between 1992 and 1994. All had very good inspection reports.

All Hallows RC Secondary, Farnham, Surrey
Allerton Grange, Leeds
Altrincham Boys' Grammar, Bowdon, Trafford
Archbishop Blanch School, Liverpool
Archbishop Sandcroft High, Harleston, Norfolk
Backwell School, Bristol
Brookvale High, Leicester
Central Foundation Girls', Tower Hamlets, E London
Convent and Jesus & Mary GM High, Brent, London
Cranbourne Secondary, Basingstoke, Hampshire
Gillingham School, Gillingham, Dorset
Guiseley School, Guiseley, Leeds
Hall Green Secondary, Hall Green, Birmingham
Healing Comprehensive, Grimsby, Humberside
Heart of England School, Balsall Common, Solihull
Helsby County High, Warrington, Cheshire
Holmer Green Upper, High Wycombe, Bucks
Holy Cross RC High, Chorley, Lancashire
Honiton Community College, Honiton, Devon
Ibstock Community College, Ibstock, Leicestershire
John F. Kennedy RC, Hemel Hempstead, Herts
La Sainte Union Convent, Highgate, NW London
Lancaster Girls' Grammar, Lancaster
Levenshulme High, Manchester
Lowton High, Wigan
Manhood Community College, Chichester, W Sussex
Minsthorpe HS & Comm Coll, S Elmsall, W Sussex
Monkwearmouth School, Sunderland
Mount St Joseph School, Bolton
Newquay Tretherras School, Newquay, Cornwall
Notre Dame High, Southwark, S London
Oaklands Community School, Southampton
Pershore High, Hereford and Worcester
Priory High, Ormskirk, Lancashire
Purbrook Park, Waterlooville, Hampshire
Queen's Park County High, Chester
Sacred Heart of Mary RC, Upminster, Havering
Sandon High, Stoke-on-Trent
Sandringham School, St Albans, Herts
Sawston Village College, Cambridgeshire
Sheldon School, Chippenham, Wiltshire
Sir Joseph Williamson's Maths, Rochester, Kent
Smestow School, Wolverhampton
St Edmund's RC, Portsmouth
St Gabriel's RC High, Bury, Lancashire
St Hilda's RC High, Burnley, Lancashire
St John Fisher RC High Wigan
St Mark's RC Secondary, Hounslow, W London
St Mary's RC, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
St Mary's RC High, Leyland, Lancashire
St Patrick's RC High, Stockton-on-Tees
St Paul's RC Comp, Abbey Wood, SE London
St Peter's C of E High, Plymouth
St Peter's Collegiate School, Wolverhampton
St Thomas More School, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex
Tadcaster Grammar, Tadcaster, N Yorkshire
Teign School, Newton Abbot, Devon
The Abraham Darby, Telford, Shropshire
The Burgate School, Fordingbridge, Hampshire
The Castle School, Taunton, Somerset
The Grange School, Stourbridge, Dudley
The Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster
The Harvey Grammar, Folkestone, Kent
The Hugh Christie, Tonbridge, Kent
The Snaith, Goole, Humberside
The Village College, Comberton, Cambridgeshire
Trinity C of E High, Greenheys, Manchester
Weavers GM, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire
William Howard School, Brampton, Cumbria
Worle School, Weston-super-Mare, Avon

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Middle, primary and nursery schools judged to give pupils a "secure start" and "high standards of literacy and numeracy"; also to "maintain a positive ethos and manage their resources effectively".

Abbotswood GM Middle, Southampton
Aston Fields Middle, Bromsgrove, Heref'd & Worcs
Chalfont St Giles Middle, Buckinghamshire
Emmanuel Middle, Verwood, Dorset
Gosforth Middle, Newcastle upon Tyne
Lake Middle, Sandown, Isle of Wight
Moatfield Middle, Redditch, Heref'd & Worcs
Necton VC Middle, Swaffham, Norfolk

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Alexandra Infant, Kingston upon Thames
All Saints C of E, Barnet, N London
Alphington Combined, Alphington, Devon
Alverstoke Infants, Gosport, Hampshire
Bare Trees, Chadderton, Oldham
Beauclerc (Controlled), Sunbury-on-Thames
Berkeley Infants, Scunthorpe, Humberside
Bethune Park, Hull
Bishop Wilton C of E, Whetstone, Humberside
Bolling Road First, Ben Rhydding, Bradford
Bolton County Infant, Warrington, Cheshire
Branscombe C of E Primary, Seaton, Devon
Broad Lane C of E Primary, Nantwich, Cheshire
Bury C of E Primary, Pulborough, W Sussex
Bushey Manor Junior Mixed, Watford
Charlton Kings GM Infants', Cheltenham
Christ the King, Coundon, Coventry
Common Road First, South Kirkby, Wakefield
Crofton Junior, Orpington, Bromley
Crosshall Junior, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
Crowlands Junior, Romford, Havering
Dalton Infant and Nursery, Dalton, Kirklees
Dawpool C of E Primary, Thurstaston, Wirral
Debden C of E Primary, Saffron Walden, Essex
Devoran County Primary, Truro, Cornwall
Edenthorpe Hall First and Middle, Doncaster
Etching Hill Primary, Rugeley, Staffordshire
Flitwick Lower, Bedford
Front Street Primary, Whickham, Gateshead
Gamston C of E (Aided), Retford, Nottinghamshire
Great Missenden C of E Combined, Buckinghamshire
Grendon C of E Primary, Northamptonshire
Halfway Infant, Halfway, Sheffield
Hartford Manor CP, Northwich, Cheshire
Hempshill Hall Primary, Nottingham
High Fernley First, Wylde, Bradford
Higher Bebington Junior, Wirral
Horbury St Peter C of E Junior, Wakefield
Keston Junior, Coulsdon, Croydon
Lady Boswell's C of E (Aided), Sevenoaks, Kent
Langdale, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire
Leckhampton C of E, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Lovington C of E, Castle Cary, Somerset
Maltby Manor Infant, Rotherham
Monkhouse Primary, North Shields, N Tyneside
Morley Primary, Derbyshire
Nether Alderley CP, Macclesfield, Cheshire
North Kelsey Primary, Lincolnshire
Oakdene Primary, Prescot, St Helens
Oatlands Infant, Harrogate, N Yorkshire
Old Hutton C of E, Kendal, Cumbria
Pickering County Junior, Pickering, N Yorkshire
Polebrook C of E, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Richmond Hill First, Sprotbrough, Doncaster
Riddings Infant School, Alfreton, Derbyshire
Roecliffe C of E, York, North Derbyshire
Rothwell Infant, Kettering, Northamptonshire
Samuel Whites Infants, Flanham, Avon
Sir Harold Jackson School, Sheffield
Snape County Primary, Bedale, N Yorkshire
Southwark Infant, Nottingham
Southwater Infant, Horsham, W Sussex
St Bede's RC Infant, Widnes, Cheshire
St Boniface RC, Salford, Greater Manchester
St John's C of E, Princes Risborough, Bucks
St John's C of E, Sandown, Isle of Wight
St Mary's C of E Junior, Dollis Park, Barnet
St Mary's RC Primary, Beckenham, SE London
St Winifred's RC, Lewisham, SE London
Sudbourne Primary, Lambeth, S London
Sutton-on-the-Forest Primary, York
Westerton Junior and Infant, West Ardsley, Leeds
Westfield Primary, Cottingham, Humberside
Wimborne Infant, Southsea, Hampshire
Woodlands Junior, Tonbridge, Kent
Wortham Long Green School, Diss, Norfolk

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Atkinson Road Nursery, Newcastle upon Tyne
Sir James Knott Memorial Nursery, N Tyneside
Susan Isaacs Nursery, Bolton
Truro Nursery, Cornwall
Worsbrough Dale Nursery, Barnsley

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

All judged "highly effective" by inspectors.

Fountaindale, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
Grangewood, Eastcote, Hillingdon, NW London
Hindley Borsdane Brook, Wigan
Northease Manor, Lewes, E Sussex
Park Crescent, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire
Pathfield, Barnstaple, Devon
Pictor, Sale, Trafford
Southall, Telford, Shropshire
St Francis, Lincoln
Woodlawn, Whitley Bay, N Tynaside

Boycott parents demand special Muslim lessons

By Peter Foster



Mukadam: pioneered state Muslim classes

MUSLIM parents who have withdrawn 1,500 children from multifaith religious education classes in West Yorkshire yesterday demanded exclusively Islamic lessons.

The parents from Batley met fellow Muslims who successfully campaigned for Birchfield Primary School, Birmingham, to become the first state school to make its own arrangements for Muslim religious education. Muhammad Pandor, the Batley spokesman, said: "We intend to follow suit and wish to discuss the matter with Kirklees council."

Muhammad Mukadam, the leader of the Birmingham parents, who is against withdrawing children, said: "The representatives seemed to like our ideas very much. They have now gone back to Yorkshire to discuss it further within their community."

Mr Mukadam said that it made seuse for Muslim parents across Britain to follow the precedent set by Birmingham. He said that he had already had inquiries from Muslim leaders in the London borough of Tower Hamlets, where an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Muslims live.

The pressure group Parental Alliance for Choice in Education, which helped the Birmingham Muslims with the legal and educational implications of their decision, was also represented at the meeting.

Fred Naylor, the alliance's secretary, said that it had offered the same support to the Batley parents. He believed the events begun in Birmingham could snowball, affecting every Muslim parent in Britain.

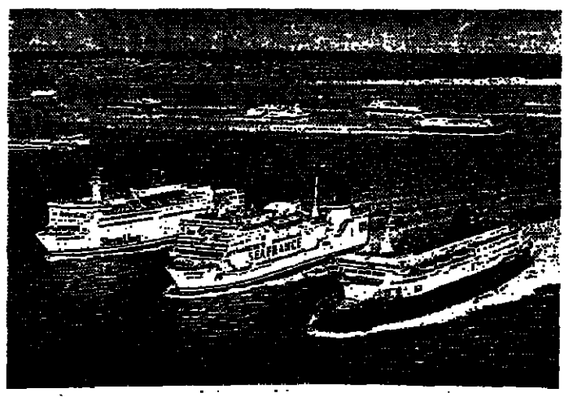
Mr Naylor also urged Christian parents to push for their children to have an undiluted religious education. "I hope that ... this multifaith, progressive education nonsense is blown sky-high."

A spokesman for Kirklees Borough Council said: "The situation in Kirklees is totally different to Birmingham. There are more than 40 schools affected by this, and I can't see how one school in Birmingham could set the pace." Further discussions with the parents were planned.

Stephen Orchard, director of the Christian Education Movement, questioned the legality of the decision to opt out of agreed multifaith syllabuses. He said that the 1988 Education Act, which provides for local agreement of religious education, was designed to prevent each denomination having separate classes.

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Cash-strapped care homes show old people the door

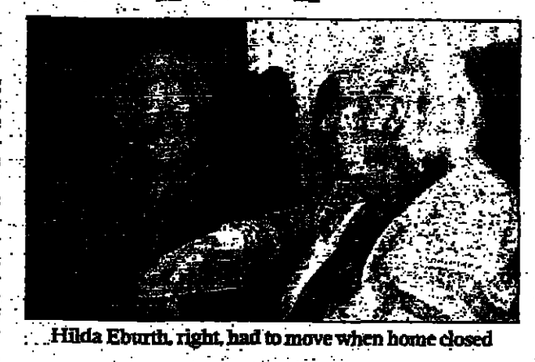
BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND RACHEL KELLY

RESIDENTS in a growing number of old people's homes are being put through the trauma of closure and relocation as a financial crisis grips the private care sector.

At least one home a day is being deregistered and thousands are in financial difficulties as owners struggle with falling property values, growing competition from large companies and the impact of government policy to care for old people in their own homes.

There are 21,000 private care homes in England and Wales, of which three quarters care for the elderly. Experts say family-run homes are disappearing as the market is increasingly dominated by big corporations running chains of homes and as council social services departments cut back on referrals and payment of fees.

Chris Vellenoweth, nursing homes project manager at the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "Inspectors have had to step in to help relocate residents suddenly when homes have closed without any notice at all. In some cases the gas or electricity has been cut off and there is no means of providing residents with their next meal. These are vulnerable people who are unable to fend for themselves."



Hilda Eburth, right, had to move when home closed

Health authority inspectors say owners are keeping their financial difficulties secret until the last possible moment, triggering a crisis and putting old people at risk. Frank Ursell, administrator of the Registered Nursing Homes Association, said: "Nursing homes in receivership are now advertised every week. You never saw that before."

Ian Wilkie, national healthcare director of Christie & Co, the largest agents in the market, said he was seeing many more receivership and distressed sales.

Social services departments, which face budget cuts, are closing council-run homes. West Sussex, which is seeking £2 million savings, is to close seven homes. In Birmingham no new referrals have been made to private old people's homes for two months.

Relatives of old people who have been forced to move when homes close say the experience is traumatic. Hazel Hodgkinson transferred her 93-year-old mother, Hilda Eburth, to Abbotsford care home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, after her previous home, where she had lived for almost three years, shut because of financial and staffing problems.

"She lost contact with all the people she knew and she had to start again. It caused a great deal of fear at a time of life when you want security," she said.

Residents of a home in Scotland were shocked one afternoon last month when sequestrators holding court papers walked in and set about closing it. The owners of Overton Hall, near New Galloway, had been made bankrupt a month before but had not told them.

Nor had they told Dumfries and Galloway local authority, whose social workers called emergency meetings to work out how to rehouse the six residents, some in their 80s and suffering from senile dementia. Relatives, one family from as far as London, had to be called to help.

Owners of care homes say that the pressure on them increased sharply when the Community Care Act took effect in April 1993. Local authorities, who took over financial responsibility for people in residential care, sought to keep people in their own homes and cut fees. At the same time, inspectors demanded costly improvements.

Many local authorities have not increased fee levels since the late 1980s. In Cheshire, the local authority has terminated contracts with nursing homes worth £322 a week and is to renew them next March at £303 a week.

Eric Milner, who closed Riell House in Tholthorpe, near York, in December, ran the home for seven years with his wife, a nurse. He is now working on a pig farm.

"We were registered for nine residents and we were down to six, below breakeven point. The inspectors kept demanding improvements such as thermostatic valves for the radiators. We couldn't afford it. You can't provide personal care anymore. We ran the home like a large family."

The growth of old people's homes began in the late 1970s and early 1980s when residents without large savings could get their fees paid automatically by the Department of Social Security. Public spending grew from £10 million to more than £1 billion by 1990 as more homes opened.



Eric Milner ran a home for the elderly in Tholthorpe, near York, until rising costs prompted him to close it down

Crofters offered 14m acres of land

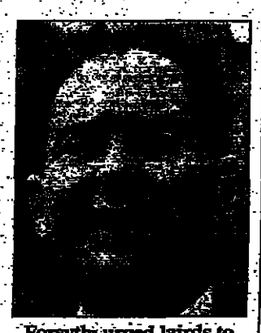
BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 14 million acres of the Scottish Highlands are to be handed over by the Government to the 1,400 crofters who tend them, allowing the crofters control of "their wee bit hill and glen", Michael Forsyth said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Inverness that he was surprised when he took up the post of Scottish Secretary to find that he was the largest crofting landlord in Scotland.

"We need to ask whether these estates would not be better run in the future by local communities themselves rather than a government department which, with the best will in the world, cannot be as sensitive to a community's needs as those who actually live there.

"We sang at the rugby international on Saturday of our ancestors fighting for their 'wee bit hill and glen'. This Government offers crofters an opportunity to secure that. We are even prepared, if the circumstances justify it, to transfer certain crofts free," he told the Scottish MPs. Mr Forsyth has called on private lairds to follow his lead.



Forsyth: urged lairds to follow his example

Land ownership in the Highlands is a vexed issue, with concert at the ease with which large estates are bought and sold. A crofters' conference three months ago was told that half of Scotland is owned by 500 people, many of them absentee landlords.

The new scheme will represent the largest transfer of land ownership in the Highlands since the First World War when the Government originally bought the land on 95 estates to provide a living for demobbed soldiers.

Eat out for a fiver

DINING OUT IS always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, starting on Monday, February 12, it is also easily affordable. To apply, cut out the vouchers which are appearing daily in *The Times* until Saturday, February 17. Each voucher entitles you and up to five companions to dine at more than 400 participating restaurants featured in our guide. (If you missed yesterday's paper, you can order a guide by sending two first class stamps to: *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer, PO Box 481, London E1 9BD.) All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you *must mention The Times* offer when you make your booking. Corrections: the telephone number of Restaurant 913 in Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire, is: 01606 330913. The Gemini restaurant at Tadworth, Surrey, (page 19 of the guide) is offering one course plus coffee not three courses.

THE TIMES



Eat out for £5

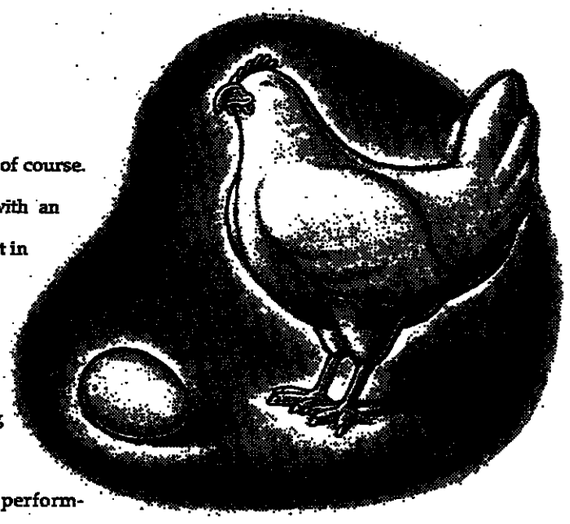
VOUCHER

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Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only – drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

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Shadow of Black Wednesday still darkens Tory prospects

Support for the Tories has at last started picking up, but how real is the upturn? Opinion changes in response both to occasional well-publicised shocks (rows, scandals and the like) and to less immediately discernible shifts in underlying attitudes.

In January 1995, Tory support jumped by five percentage points, and Labour's rating fell by a similar amount, according to the regular MORI polls for *The Times*. This followed reports of internal Labour arguments over VAT, education and Clause Four. This was the first check to Tony Blair's previous ascent in the polls. Once he quelled the dissent, Labour recovered much of its previous support. Similarly, the Tories' rating leapt seven points at the end of last June after John Major's initiative over the party leadership. A month later, Tory support fell back again for two months.

Once these shocks had worked their way through, it was possible to discern a gradual rise in Tory support, of roughly three percentage points over the year as a whole. This trend was underlined by the last MORI poll, published

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

12 days ago, which put the party on 29 per cent, its highest level for over two years.

This poll was taken before the Harriet Harman affair made its full impact. Party strategists are eagerly awaiting the next polls, from ICM, due tomorrow, and from Gallup, due later in the week, to see how the ratings have moved. But in nine days will come another shock in the form of the Scott report on the Iraqi arms affair. The consequent row will almost certainly damage the Tories. It is impossible to tell what the lasting impact of these shocks will be. The only certainty is that the next month or two's polls will be distorted, probably in both directions, by these shocks.

Current signs of a pick-up in Tory fortunes from the low levels of the 1993-95 period are underlined not just by voting intentions figures but also by other questions about political attitudes. These point to a firming of support, particularly for Mr Major himself, among traditional Tory backers, while economic optimism has begun to recover.

A poll of one thousand people who claim to have voted Tory in the 1992 election by the Opinion Research Business for James Capel has shown the first signs of a return of the "feel-good" factor (measuring optimism about personal finances, the economy and unemployment). The poll, undertaken between January 25 and 28, suggests that the improvement is especially marked among previous Tories who have switched to other parties. There is not yet evidence of any improvement in the Tories' share of the vote among this sample, but the pollsters reckon that some of the factors necessary to achieve this are beginning to turn, not just the "feel-good" factor but also Mr Major's personal standing. He is a big asset for the party. Moreover, even among those who have switched away since 1992, the enterprise economy (a Tory slogan) is preferred by two to one over the stakeholder economy (Labour's slogan). However, a clear majority of these 1992 Tory supporters think Labour will win the next election, and there are worries that the Tory party has swung too far to the right.

It is uncertain how long it might take for such stirrings of better feelings about the Tories to translate into firm votes. My hunch is that it will be very hard, if not impossible, for the Tories completely to reverse the record drop in their economic competence and leadership ratings as a result of Black Wednesday, sterling's forced exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992. That still looks like the decisive event of this Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

Lilley to announce pensions boost for small firms' staff

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE benefits of occupational pension schemes will be extended to the staff of small firms under plans to be unveiled by Peter Lilley tomorrow.

Such workers largely missed out on the pensions boom in recent years because their employers lacked the expertise and manpower to run the kind of scheme offered by big companies. They have had to rely instead on the state pension or more expensive private pensions.

But in a speech on the future funding of retirement, the Social Security Secretary will seek to extend the occupational umbrella to all employees. He will allow a "third tier" of pensions in addition to the basic state pension and the compulsory second pensions of SERPS or contracted-out occupational or private schemes.

Mr Lilley's inaugural lecture to members of Politeia, the newest of the Conservative think-tanks, will come against the background of renewed debate in Tory circles about the future of the welfare state. Although right-wing ministers are privately applauding his success in cutting real growth in social security spending from 3 per cent a year to 1 per cent, they still want to see more of the burden transferred to private individuals and insurers.

But Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and foremost exponent of the One Nation tradition, is expected to counter calls for radical change in a speech on the welfare state to the London School of Economics today.

Mr Lilley will make it easier for bosses of small firms to offer their staff "group personal pensions" under which a big commercial fund manager would set up a scheme for the employees of dozens of companies. It would be up to the employer to decide whether to boost payouts by also contributing to the fund.

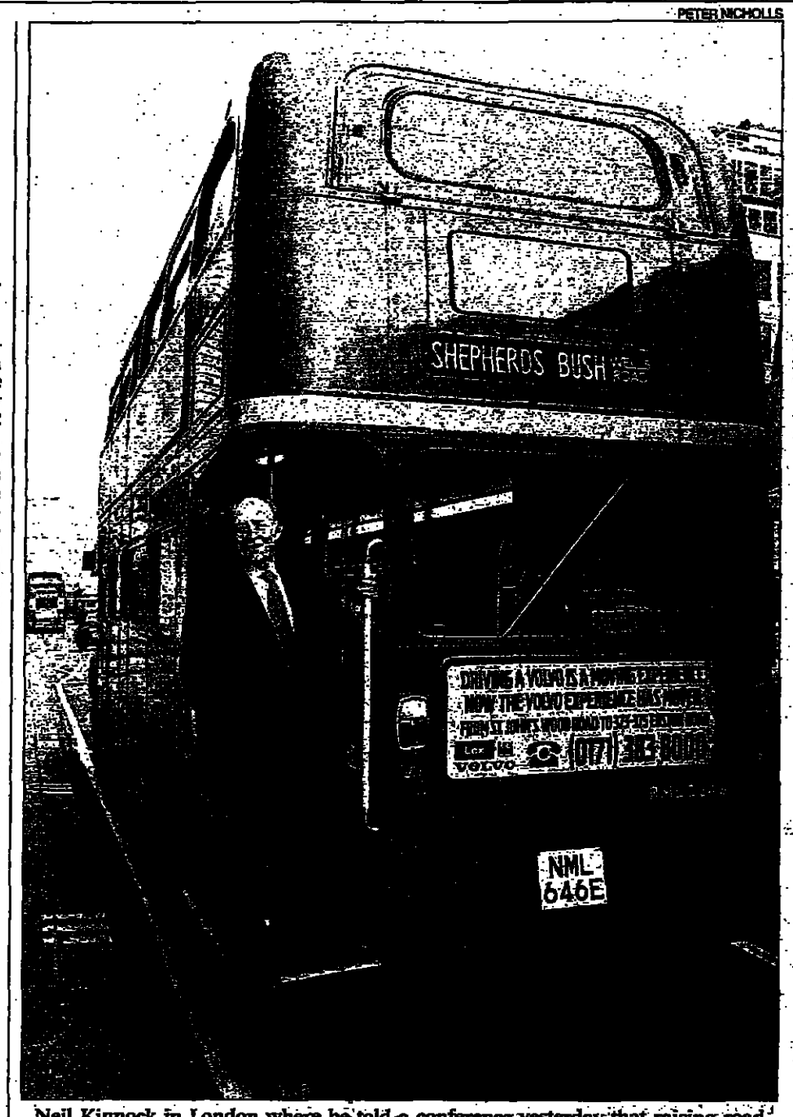
The idea is that employers would be able to offer their workers a chance to join a group scheme and so benefit from the lower administrative costs of arrangements covering hundreds of people. Regulations under the Financial Services Act that inhibit bosses from recommending pensions providers could be amended by the Government.

Mr Lilley will highlight what he regards as the success of the Government's pensions policy, pointing out that total funds invested in occupational and private schemes stand at £600 billion — more than the rest of the European Union put together. The national kitty has grown by a startling £100 billion in the past year — more than the £90 billion spent by the taxpayer on the whole of the welfare state over the same period, of which £32 billion went on state pensions.

He will claim that Britain is far better placed than its neighbours to cope with the burdens of an ageing population as the numbers of pensioners rises by 50 per cent to 16 million by 2030. But he will accuse Labour of planning pensions changes amounting to a backdoor way of raising taxes. He will say that Labour's proposals for extending means-testing and creating a guaranteed minimum pension would penalise people who have saved for their old age and undermine incentives for the present generation of workers to do likewise.

Labour's interest in the Singapore Central Provident Fund — under which employers and employees each contribute 20 per cent of earnings into a government-run welfare fund — will also be attacked as a long-term threat to individual savings. Mr Lilley will point out that the average rate of return from the Singapore fund is only one fifth that of privately managed UK pension funds and suggest that Labour is secretly planning to get its hands on some of the pensions surplus to use for higher state spending.

PETER NICHOLLS



Neil Kinnock in London where he told a conference yesterday that raising road taxes would persuade more people to abandon their cars and use public transport

Kinnock calls for bigger lorries and higher road tax

BY IAN MURRAY

BIGGER juggernauts and higher road taxes are the answer to the traffic congestion that is costing Britain £30 billion a year, Neil Kinnock told a London conference yesterday.

Increasing the maximum lorry size would lead to fewer journeys, and raising road tax would encourage more people to use public transport, Mr Kinnock said that he had been converted to the cause of bigger juggernauts since becoming the European Union's Transport Commissioner.

"On the figures available to me, I believe the argument is very strong," he said. "Increased size is better than a congested infrastructure and is preferable to the misery of incessant traffic to those who live beside lorry routes."

He said that the EU was threatened with "economic thrombosis" by the growth of road traffic. "Endless traffic jams, suffocating urban air pollution, epidemic delays and rising insurance bills are already everyday facts of life — and of death."

Building more roads was no answer, and people had to be persuaded to make better use of public transport. "There needs to be a fairer and more accurate pricing of road use to encourage a shift. Even though motorists pay a lot there is a real gap between what users contribute and what they cost society.

"It may be that the only way to ensure a more judicious choice is made about the various modes of transport available would be to introduce a fairer pricing regime."

Mr Kinnock said that the European Commission was producing figures which would show that for many people a car was an expensive luxury. "People will see that it is cheaper to hire a car when they need one rather than keep one as an extraordinary decoration to their homes, as a kind of mobile topiary."

He said it had taken him 25 minutes longer that morning to travel from Heathrow to the centre of London than to travel from Brussels to Heathrow. He believed that congestion could be eased by greater use of the Thames. "When there is access to the equivalent of a ten-lane motorway without any of the environmental pressures, that access should be fully used."

After the conference, organised by the Association of London Government, Mr Kinnock described his decision to allow a £440 million subsidy to the Spanish airline Iberia as "legally sound" and said that British Airways and the Government had little if any justification for challenging it.

"Some of the hostility is well rehearsed — some of it was just a knee-jerk reaction," he said. Concerns about the subsidy were natural but he was determined to ensure that there would be no uncompetitive practices.

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Demand for inquiry into late payments

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PRESSURE increased yesterday for an independent investigation into late payments by Whitehall departments.

The spending watchdog, the National Audit Office, has been asked to examine the reasons for at least £232 million being paid late by departments last year.

According to figures obtained from the Government by Barbara Roche, Labour's spokesman for small businesses, one of the worst offenders was the Department of Trade and Industry, which delayed almost £50 million of payments last year. In a letter the *The Times* today, she says that small firms are "going to the wall" because of late government payments.

Labour MPs were quick to point out that the head of the department last year was Michael Heseltine, who admitted last week that as a businessman he had often delayed paying creditors.

Letters, page 19

Serious criminals gaining from Tory rule, says Straw

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CONVICTIONS for crimes including rape, burglary and violence have fallen allowing many criminals to escape justice, according to a Labour Party study published yesterday.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the decline in the number of convictions meant that the prospects of getting away with crime had risen since the Tories came to power. The number of recorded offences and the proportion of charges dropped before cases come to court had risen, and convictions and cautions had fallen as a proportion of overall reported crime.

Mr Straw told a press conference at Westminster that more offenders were getting away with crime and that serious criminals had a three-times better chance of escaping punishment now than in 1980. The figures show that only one in eleven recorded rapes in 1994 was followed by a conviction compared with one in three in 1980. Only one in 33 house burglaries resulted in conviction or caution compared with one in 11 in 1980. For robberies the figures are one in four down to one in 11.

He said that the total number of convictions and cautions for home burglary and arson had fallen in spite of huge increases in the number of recorded offences in both categories. The balance had swung too far in favour of defendants.

"Somebody has done all right out of the Conservatives — it is serious criminals and their representatives. We have to ensure that more offenders are caught and convicted."

Blair gimmickry gibe

THE Tories accused Tony Blair of political gimmickry yesterday over his announcement of an information superhighway deal with BT.

Mr Blair said at last year's party conference that a Labour government would allow BT access to the cable market by 1998 in exchange for connecting schools and hospitals to a nationwide computer network. He has now agreed to give small companies time to establish themselves before BT can compete against them.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said that Labour had scrapped the deal, which had been a "cheap political gimmick made by someone who hasn't a scintilla of understanding of how the free market works".

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and the Lord Chancellor's Department. A Private Notice Question on rail privatisation was followed by debates on policing in London and on the Sheffield supertram. In the Lords: Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, report; and Agricultural Holdings (Fee) Regulations.

TODAY In the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister followed by debates on the future of GP fundholders; Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations; proposed closure of Frances Wilhere Home, in Sutton Coldfield. In the Lords: the Broadcasting Bill, committee stage; health and safety in farming.

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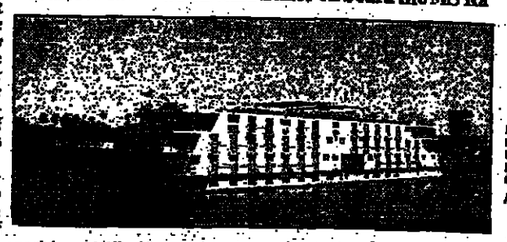
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America's little ice age takes 60 lives and wrecks sunshine holidays in Florida

Waterfalls freeze and moustaches wilt in cold snap

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ICE floes have appeared in the Hudson and moustaches have snapped off in Minnesota. Record low temperatures were recorded yesterday in the eastern half of America as the freezing weather continued.

Television news broadcasts carried warnings of the danger to facial hair after men reportedly lost their moustaches by trying to brush away icicles in -60F (-51C) temperatures. Liz Cunnane, a New York trichologist, said that moustache-wearers should wrap upper lips against the extreme cold and not attempt combing until the hair was completely defrosted.

"Hair has a 12 to 14 per cent moisture content and in such temperatures it may freeze almost instantaneously," Miss Cunnane said.

Keith Pickus, an assistant professor of history at Wichita State University, Kansas, said: "On a five-minute walk across campus, my beard turned into one big stalacrite. If you are not careful, it will break off like the stem of a good champagne flute."

Forecasters predicted a gradual improvement in the conditions, but 60 people are now reported to have died as a result of the Arctic chill. One victim, an Alzheimer's sufferer, wandered round in a daze after a car crash in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and died of exposure. An 80-year-old woman in Wisconsin froze to death after locking herself in her garage, and a man in Houston, Texas, died after trying to warm himself over a brazier. A spark from the hot coals set fire to his woollen mittens and then to the rest of his clothes.

Winter sun-seekers in northern Florida awoke to temperatures below zero and a wind chill factor which took the mercury to -8F (-22C). The state's citrus farmers had to take emergency measures to protect crops, spraying fruit to create an insulating outer layer of ice. Bobby McKown, chief executive of Florida Citrus Mutual, predicted bad defoliation of orange trees. The damage may push up orange-juice prices.

Many motorists had trouble trying to start their cars. Residents of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, awoke yesterday to temperatures of -13F (-25C), and in upstate New York the waterfall at Haines Falls froze, creating an array of icicles. Petrol pump attendants complained that their hands were too numb to handle change, and thousands of people in Tennessee were left without electricity after ice unbalanced power pylons. Along the shores of the Great Lakes, pedestrians were urged to "keep blinking" to protect their eyes.

In Atlanta, Georgia, schools and businesses did not open because of the -6F (-21C) conditions, and firemen set light to a frozen water hydrant to thaw it out before fighting a fire. But for the people of Duluth, Minnesota, yesterday morning's -10F (-23C) was a welcome rise on Friday's -60F (-51C).

"This," said John Myers, a local reporter, "feels positively springlike."



Don Lopez, a fireman, rescues Marglyn Paseka, 15, after she and a friend tried to cross a flooded creek in Santa Rosa, California, in a dustbin

Museum takes over block of Manhattan

BY QUENTIN LETTS

NEW York's Museum of Modern Art, one of the most acquisitive galleries in the world, plans nearly to double in size. It has signed a $50 million (£33 million) deal to buy neighbouring buildings in central Manhattan which include a 19-storey hotel.

The ambitious expansion, which will be watched closely by the museum's British and European rivals, is likely to take ten years and will cost "several hundred million dollars". It will allow the museum to show more than the current 10 per cent of works it manages to exhibit and to hang some of the vast canvases favoured by modern artists.

By buying three buildings the museum has added 250,000 sq ft to its existing space of 350,000 sq ft. The buildings have high ceilings and offer different-shaped rooms. The museum's galleries have been criticised for being too rectangular and low-ceilinged. The expansion means that the museum will occupy the best part of an entire block.

The museum was founded in 1929 by three rich women, including John D. Rockefeller's wife, Abby. It has the most comprehensive modern art collection in the world and has an acquisitions budget that is the envy of European museum directors. To pay for the development, the museum intends to run a vigorous appeal. There is little doubt that the funds will be raised.

Glenn Lowry, the director, told *The New York Times*: "This will allow us to have a different kind of future than anyone would have imagined a year ago."

Modern artists increasingly tend to produce work that is so oddly shaped, so grandiose in proportions, that it is difficult to hang. A good example is a 240,000 lb, 13 ft-high, 55 ft-long sculpture called *Intersection II* by Richard Serra, which was given to the museum three years ago.

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Saddam inches towards UN oil deal to feed starving Iraqis


Saddam: regime finally running out of cash

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ appears to be edging towards a deal with the United Nations that would allow it to sell a limited amount of oil on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War, in order to buy food for its starving people.

An Iraqi delegation led by Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the former Ambassador to the UN, is due to start talks with officials in New York today on an "oil-for-food" scheme approved by the Security Council last April. Under the scheme, Iraq would be permitted to sell $1 billion (£640 million) worth of crude every three months for food and other humanitarian supplies.

Thirty per cent of the total revenue would be diverted to the UN Compensation Commission, set up to pay reparations to victims of the Gulf War, while a further $150 million of every $1 billion would be spent on the Kurdish population who live beyond Baghdad's control in three northern governorates.

Until now, Iraq has rejected the UN terms for an oil sale, particularly the set-aside for the Kurds and the requirement that the "larger share" of the exported oil be shipped through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline across Turkey. Baghdad claimed such conditions were an unacceptable infringement of its sovereignty.

Reports in official Iraqi media yesterday suggest, however, that Baghdad may be softening its resistance to the requirements. The *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper reported that President Saddam Hussein was ready to ship food to the Kurds and said that agreement between Iraq and the UN would be "a humiliating defeat for America".

Diplomats noted that the black market exchange rate for the Iraqi dinar had fallen from 3,000 to the dollar to just 460 on the expectation of an oil deal.

Iraq's readiness to enter talks with the UN about the "oil-for-food" scheme, spelt out in Resolution 986 by the Security Council, has prompted speculation that Saddam's regime is finally running out of cash. UN agencies report dire conditions in the country, with four million people, or a fifth of the population, at severe nutritional risk and a new generation growing up stunted by malnutrition.

The market cost of food for a family of five is estimated at $26 a month, while the average wage is only between $3 and $5 a month. Some Iraqis are said to be so desperate that, having sold all their furniture to buy food, they are now dismantling their homes to sell the bricks.

Western diplomats remain sceptical, however, that Iraq will actually accept UN terms. Iraq has always feared that, if it accepts the scheme, it will postpone the time when it can obtain a complete lifting of the oil embargo.

Under the resolution that ended the Gulf War in 1991, the oil embargo must be lifted unconditionally once Iraq has satisfied UN weapons inspectors that it has dismantled its capacity to develop ballistic missiles and biological, nuclear and chemical arms.

Even if Iraq meets UN demands, Britain and the United States would still want to control its oil sales to keep a rein on Saddam, rather than allowing his Government to sell oil again freely on world markets.

The Arab League expressed the hope yesterday that the talks, which are expected to last for some weeks, will be successful. However, the UN cautioned that there would be "no quick fix". Sylvana Foa, a spokeswoman for the organisation, said: "These discussions will be difficult. It is going to take time."

Forbes shrugs off barbed attacks by White House rivals

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT IS eight against one, but concerted attacks by the rest of the Republican field have yet to puncture the Steve Forbes bubble.

Robert Dole, the front-runner, has rounded on the multi-millionaire publisher because he has been shaken by his recent surge in popularity. The seven other candidates have ganged up on Mr Forbes because he prevents them from getting a clear shot at Mr Dole.

In speeches and advertisements they denounce Mr Forbes's "flat tax", his political inexperience, his social libertarianism and his attempt to "buy" the presidency, but the most they can claim to have achieved so far is to have capped his rise.

"The more he is attacked, the more supporters come to his aid. There's a circle-the-wagons mentality," said Frank Luntz, the pollster who advised Ross Perot's independent presidential campaign in 1992, helped devise Newt Gingrich's 1994 *Contract with America* and has made the "angry white male" his speciality.

Last weekend Mr Luntz brought together 14 of Mr Forbes's New Hampshire supporters for a detailed two-hour discussion and let reporters watch through a one-way mirror. They learnt that Mr Forbes's greatest asset was his status as a political outsider. His trademark "flat tax" plan merely reinforced that status because it would end the legitimised corruption of Washington where politicians trade tax concessions for financial contributions. "The 'flat tax' draws attention to Forbes, but voters stick with him because he's not a politician," Mr Luntz said.

Mr Forbes's original backers were anti-tax supply-siders, but he increasingly draws support from what a Dole adviser termed the "anti-Washington, anti-political, anarchic wing of the Republican Party". This makes it easy for him to deflect attacks from his rivals and from the media by portraying them as the product of a worried establishment. In one advertisement Mr Forbes outlines his goals then adds: "The politicians will try to stop us."

Mr Forbes's willingness to dip deep into his personal fortune also enables him to swamp his rivals' messages. He has already spent $18 million (£11.9 million), most of it on saturation advertising, and he dominates the airwaves in both Iowa, whose caucuses are a week today, and in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary in a fortnight. Brent Siegrist, the Republican leader of Iowa's House of Representatives, told *Time*: "He's on the radio all day at work. He drives you home and he puts you to bed."

In attacking Mr Forbes, Mr Dole also faces the danger of reinforcing his reputation for meanness. His new strategy is to employ surrogates to do the dirty work while appearing to be above the fray. The chief surrogate is Steve Merrill, New Hampshire's popular Governor, who is appears on Dole advertisements claiming the Forbes "flat tax" would cost his state's average household an extra $2,000 a year.

The Dole camp is banking on Mr Merrill to deliver the Granite State just as one of his predecessors, John Sununu, delivered it for George Bush in 1988. The defeated candidate was Mr Dole and Mr Sununu went on to become President Bush's chief of staff.

Ailing Reagan to miss 85th party

Washington: Seven years after leaving office, Ronald Reagan is 85 today, but he is too ill with Alzheimer's disease to attend his birthday party in Los Angeles tonight at the restaurant where he proposed to Nancy (Tom Rhodes writes). Guests include Bob Hope and Charlton Heston.


Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes, who has shaken Robert Dole

Clinton starts on budget for 1997

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

AMERICA'S budget fiasco reached new levels of absurdity yesterday when President Clinton formally submitted a 1997 budget plan even though he and the Republican Congress have yet to agree a plan for the present fiscal year, which began last October.

Mr Clinton was meeting a legal requirement and tacitly admitted that the situation was ridiculous. Budget plans normally run to about 2,000 pages; yesterday's bare-bones offering was just 20 pages.

"The 1996 budget process is being lapped by 1997," said Robert Reischauer, former director of the congressional budget office. "We have the runners for the previous race still on the track and the gun is going off for the new race."

Mr Clinton vetoed the Republicans' 1996 budget last November, saying it would devastate key social programmes in order to balance the budget by 2002. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, twice shut down the federal Government, but Mr Clinton refused to give in.

The Republicans abandoned their hardline tactics last month when it became clear that they had lost public support. Budget negotiations have all but collapsed.

Mr Clinton's 1997 budget proposal mostly restated his last offer to the Republicans, which was a balanced budget in seven years achieved through smaller tax cuts.

Unlucky kicker booed

New York: Michael Volino, the New York police sergeant, failed to kick his way to riches in front of millions of American football fans and was booed off the pitch.

Sergeant Volino, the winner of a lucky draw, was offered $1 million by a chocolate company if he succeeded with a single place kick at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. Regardless of the result however, the policeman was promised a consolation prize of $5,000 (£3,300) and a four-day holiday.

Attacker foiled

Guatemala City: President Arzu escaped unharmed from a bizarre attack in which a man tried to ram his lorry into the Guatemalan leader and his wife. They were riding horses prior to a visit by the Pope. The man was shot dead by bodyguards. *(AP)*

Renewing ties

Amman: King Husain will visit Saudi Arabia on Sunday, marking an end to the rift caused by the Gulf War when Jordan sided with Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. *(Reuter)*

Loads of money

Rome: An Italian company that empties telephone boxes is paying its workers in coins because local banks refuse to accept the change. One worker's £2,500 redundancy payment weighed 330lb. *(Reuter)*

Opposition waves the flag to beat Keating

Sydney: The Australian flag, which republicans want to change if the country cuts its constitutional ties to Britain, took centre stage last night in the election battle between Paul Keating, the Labor Prime Minister, and John Howard, the Liberal leader (Roger Maynard writes).

As the campaign entered its second week with Mr Keating trailing by 10 percentage points in the opinion polls, Mr Howard told his party faithful in Perth that a coalition government would introduce laws to protect the national symbol.

Supporting a National Party plan to make it unlawful to change the Australian flag without public consent, he said: "I do not mind saying that I have a strong emotional, indeed, passionate commitment to the present Australian flag. I am unashamed about that. I think it is one of the most beautiful flags in the world."

Mr Howard said he was willing to change the flag if that was the wish of most Australians. But he promised: "I will sponsor legislation to change the Australian Flag Act to ensure that it can never be changed without all of the Australian people being consulted."

According to the latest *Sydney Morning Herald*-McNair survey, a clear majority of voters expect that in the general election on March 2 the coalition will beat Labor, which has been in power for 13 years.

Afrikaans loses prime share of airwaves

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's state broadcasting corporation, once a pillar of the apartheid regime, has been relaunched to reflect the cultural and linguistic demographics of the rainbow nation.

Changes to give all 11 official languages a representative share of airtime has prompted angry protests. Particularly controversial is the downgrading of Afrikaans from more than 30 per cent of the total broadcasting time to less than 5 per cent. English will dominate, while Afrikaans will share a secondary channel with four African languages, the third channel going to Zulu and Xhosa.

Several white Afrikaans and English-speaking presenters and weather forecasters have been axed. Marietta Kruger, a veteran news presenter, made an emotional farewell appearance on last Friday's news with an appeal that Afrikaans be accorded its rightful place.

The issue has stirred heated debate between the political parties and has become entangled in the question of impartiality. The corporation's chief executive, Zwelake Sisulu, is the son of President Mandela's former cellmate, Walter Sisulu.

At the relaunch ceremony on Sunday night, Mr Mandela said: "We are shedding another layer in the baggage that has clouded our nation's vision of itself. We are here ... to join you in acknowledging and reasserting your independence."

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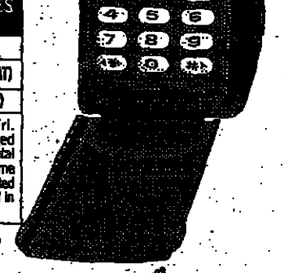
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Pressure grows in hunt for missing Bosnians

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

SALKUNE CELIKOVIC, a 43-year-old Muslim woman from eastern Bosnia, is probably a widow, but she does not know for sure. Her husband was put on a bus in April 1992 in Zvornik with her daughter, son-in-law and two brothers. She has never heard from any of them since.

Mrs Celikovic now lives in Tinja, a village outside Tuzla, clinging to the hope that her husband and daughter are still alive somewhere. Her despair is shared by hundreds of thousands across Bosnia-Herzegovina where an estimated 27,000 people are missing. As the war ends, international mediators have stepped up pressure on Serb authorities to account for the missing and to help the United Nations war crimes tribunal in its pursuit of those responsible for their disappearance.

Hundreds of angry women from Srebrenica have been staging demonstrations, including throwing bricks through the window of a Red Cross office in Tuzla and Sarajevo demanding that action be taken to account for an estimated 7,000 men who disappeared after Bosnian Serbs overran the enclave in July.

On Sunday, Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, persuaded President Milosevic to permit international war crimes investigators to open an office in the Yugoslav capital. Under threats of withholding full diplomatic recognition of Yugoslavia, Mr Milosevic agreed to allow the office to be opened but said those suspected of war crimes would be tried in Serbia because the country has no extradition provisions.

Briton hurt: A British soldier was slightly wounded by a sniper and an American armoured vehicle hit a mine in separate incidents in Bosnia, a Nato spokesman said yesterday. The soldier was driving in a convoy between Sarajevo and Kiseljak when a bullet hit his windscreen, cutting his face. The armoured vehicle was damaged by the mine in northern Bosnia, but there were no casualties. *(Reuter)*

Court of new 'Tsar' exposed

Yeltsin aide lifts the curtain on Kremlin of spies and bullies

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

Anatoli Chubais, Russia's former economic chief, said if President Yeltsin opted for huge spending, it would lead to financial disaster. He also said at the Davos economic forum there would be bloodshed if the Communists came to power. *(Reuter)*

ONE of President Yeltsin's closest aides is poised to drop a pre-election bombshell on the embattled Russian leader with the publication of a new book revealing the power struggles and intrigues inside the Kremlin.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the former presidential spokesman and now Russia's Ambassador to the Vatican, offers the first inside story of the transformation of President Yeltsin from champion of democracy to the ailing and unpopular leader of today.

Although the book about his work in the Kremlin between 1992 and 1994 is not yet complete, there is such public interest that some chapters have been serialised in the weekly *Argumenty i Fakty* newspaper. Mr Kostikov, known for his sharp mind and even sharper tongue, paints an extraordinary picture of Kremlin life, which resembles more the court of an ageing tsar than the office of Russia's first democratically elected head of state.

In one section he relates the atmosphere of paranoia that reigns in the Kremlin, where cronies run day-to-day affairs, eventually driving out far more qualified aides. For instance, he recalls that all offices and telephones in the Kremlin were bugged by the presidential security team, so that when Kremlin staffers got together for a drink after work they would often address each other by ficticious names to confuse the spies.

Much of Mr Kostikov's criticism is directed at General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the presidential bodyguard, and Viktor Ilyushin, his aide, who effectively run the Kremlin and decide who Mr Yeltsin meets and what he reads.

In an interview with *Itogi*, a weekly current affairs programme, Mr Kostikov said a common expression in the Kremlin was "it is no business of the Tsar's", meaning that the aides, rather than the President, would make the decisions.

General Korzhakov, a shadowy former KGB officer, comes across as the classic Russian servant who loyally devotes himself to his master but gradually takes over the running of the estate.

According to one passage, he found out that Mr Kostikov was planning to write about his experiences in the Kremlin when he took up his new foreign post. The burly bodyguard came to Mr Kostikov's farewell party and told him not to write anything critical.

Mr Kostikov has gone to great pains to insist that he does not want to hurt his former boss and that he has deliberately withheld potentially damaging information, including details of a drunken boat trip when Mr Yeltsin reportedly threw his spokesman into the Volga river.

Nevertheless, the Russian leader, who is preparing for his re-election battle in June, is unlikely to be pleased with his description as a "lone and tragic figure" void of any beliefs, who is desperately clinging to power at any cost.

"Yeltsin does not have a personal democratic ideology," Mr Kostikov concludes. "His ideology, his friend, his concubine, his mistress, his passion, is power."

So far the Kremlin has not officially responded to Mr Kostikov's remarks. As for the author, he will not easily be silenced. A former journalist and committed democrat, he is no stranger to controversy and was ousted from his job for privately criticising President Yeltsin for his drunken public appearances.



A Russian pilot takes a ride on his Sukhoi SU31 fighter in Singapore yesterday as it is towed into place for the Asian Aerospace '96 airshow, which begins today

Arsonist behind mystery of French fires

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN arsonist has confessed to setting more than half the fires in a small village in the Jura mountain range which have baffled scientists, terrified inhabitants and obsessed the French reading public since last November.

Thirteen fires have broken out in the village of Moirans-en-Montagne in the last three months, killing two people and creating a mystery which grew with every passing day and every new fire.

A man was arrested on Sunday night shortly after setting another blaze and later confessed to lighting seven of the fires, the public prosecutor in the case said yesterday.

The identity of the suspect has not been revealed, but he is believed to be an acquaintance of the Raffin family, in whose houses most of the fires erupted. He has not, however, confessed to starting the fire which killed Annie Raffin and Gérard David, a volunteer fireman, on January 20.

In the absence of any obvious explanation for the fires, theories and rumours spread rapidly. The local magistrate brought in electricity experts to see if an underground cable was the cause, and some seismologists argued that inflammable gases might be leaking out of underground caves benath the mountains.

Investigators repeatedly said they could find no scientific or rational explanation for the fires, but yesterday they insisted that arson had never been ruled out. "That was part of the strategy in that it allowed the police to pursue their criminal investigation," Marie Christine Tarare, the public prosecutor, claimed.

But by refusing to say arson was a possibility and stressing that there was no "electrical, nuclear or magnetic anomaly" to explain the fires, the authorities stirred up panic and speculation, ranging from the scientific to the supernatural.

Some inhabitants maintained the town was under attack by laser beams from satellites. Six fires still remain officially unaccounted for.

Russian millionaire takes his cue from Ross Perot



Fyodorov, a rare example of unqualified success

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

A MAN who has won greater renown as an eye surgeon than a politician threw his hat into the ring of the Russian presidential election yesterday and promised to be an unpredictable "third force" in the race.

In an energetic performance at the press conference to launch his campaign, Svyatoslav Fyodorov, 68, one of the surprise successes of the December parliamentary elections, cited a number of influences for his blend of popular capitalism, from the Scottish utopian philosopher Robert Owen to the Pope and the former American presidential challenger, Ross Perot.

"I met Ross Perot not long ago and he is fully in agreement with my ideas and those of my party," Professor Fyodorov said. He also quoted with approval the maxim of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, that it is not important what colour a cat is, so long as it catches mice, and said the rapid growth of the Chinese economy was an example to Russia.

Like Mr Perot, Professor Fyodorov is a self-made millionaire. His pioneer laser eye surgery is one of the few unqualified success stories in Russia over the past ten years. He has treated more than a million patients and records mounting profits each year.

In December's elections to the state Duma, Professor Fyodorov's Party of Workers' Self-Government won 2.7 million votes. Although this was not enough to gain representation in parliament, the party out-polled many more established groups. Professor Fyodorov won a local seat in the city of Cheboksary and has been negotiating with other centrist parties in an attempt to establish himself as their common candidate. He has recently had talks with Nikolai Ryzhkov, the former Soviet Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the retired general.

The professor's economic policy, which he has put into practice in his 12 eye hospitals, encourages workers to take a stake in their companies and receive a proportionate share of profits. He said one of the main mistakes of Russia's transition to capitalism was that it had not fostered thousands of small businesses and created a nation of entrepreneurs.

He inveighed both against the current Government, which he said was turning Russia into a "colonial state", and against the Communist Party, which he said promised only a return to a bureaucratic enslavement by the party *nomenklatura*.

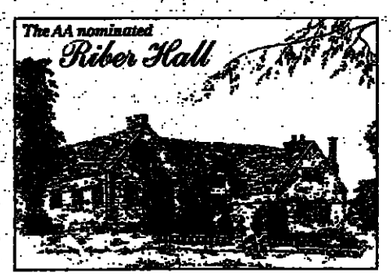
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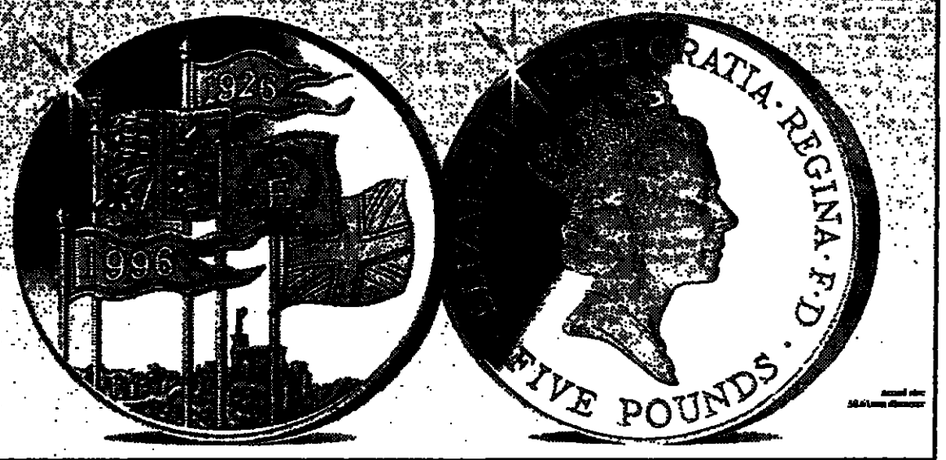
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Defence unity approved

Germans support integration except on monetary front

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A LARGE majority of Germans are in favour of European projects, including common foreign and defence policies, in spite of growing scepticism about economic and monetary union.

Opinions polls in the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday show that the Germans are broadly behind their Government when it comes to intensifying European integration in non-monetary matters.

The newspaper said that 71 per cent of Germans support a common foreign policy. 55 per cent want a common defence policy and 74 per cent favour a strategy against drugs. This, said the paper's chief European commentator, demonstrated that Germany was still wedded to the European idea.

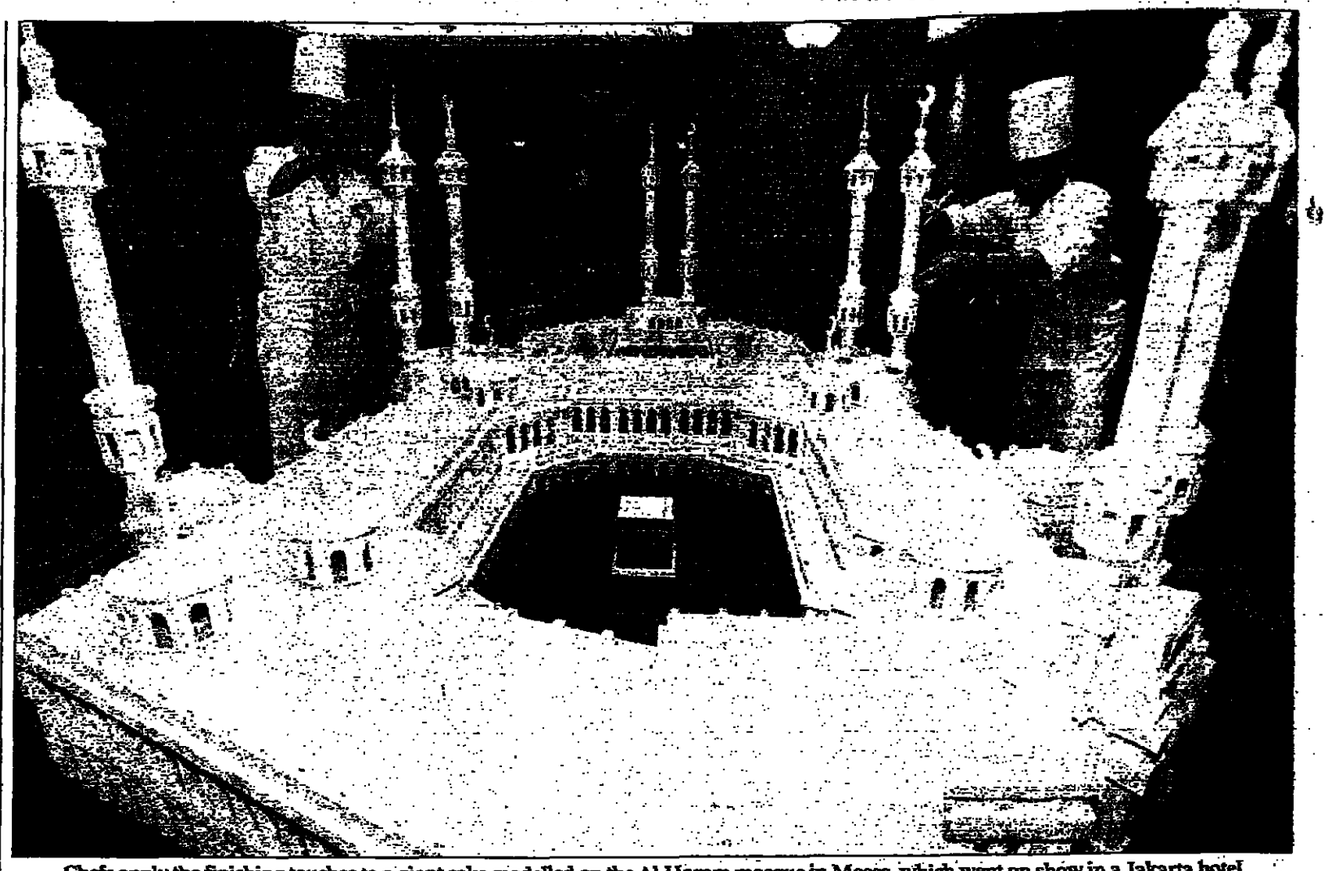
"Because of their disappointment with the achievement of the European Union, citizens are looking at European institutions and the grand projects of the future with increasing, perhaps healthy, scepticism," conceded Klaus Dieter Frankenberger. "Even so, Germans expect much from Europe. These expectations are geared to security and welfare."

The gap between leaders and led on EMU has become a central preoccupation. On Thursday, Germany is likely to announce that unemployment has passed the four million mark — a psychologically critical level that will frame the political agenda. The Government will try to recast monetary union as a generator of jobs.

Bonn has promised to help to create two million jobs by 2000, providing unions restrain their wage claims. It has not made clear how monetary union will fit into this so-called "alliance for work". The promised measures were co-ordinated to some degree with France.

Economic specialists from the French parliament will visit their counterparts in Germany tomorrow to work out how EMU, with its tough yardsticks on debt, budget deficits, inflation and exchange rates, could be presented as an employment-creating policy. Both Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrat parliamentary leader, have argued that the collapse of monetary union would unravel the single market, and that this would increase unemployment.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 18
Letters, page 19



Chefs apply the finishing touches to a giant cake modelled on the Al-Haram mosque in Mecca, which went on show in a Jakarta hotel yesterday. The cake, which measures 28 square yards, took 2,000 hours to prepare, and included 176lb of icing sugar, 22lb of glucose, 66lb of palm sugar and about nine pints of egg white. The confection will be on display throughout the holy month of Ramadan



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Self-styled King of Guin gulls Texans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SMOOTH-TALKING African who claims to be King of Guin and last week received a red-carpet welcome to Texas was yesterday challenged to prove his bona fides.

François Ayi, who prefers to be addressed as "His Royal Highness King Ge Fiovi François A. Ayi of the Kingdom of Guin", has been delighting polite circles in Austin, Texas, with his regal manner and elaborately charitable sentiments. His every word was cherished, and among the matrons of Austin there developed a rapacious market for his company.

One person not convinced, however, was the state's attorney-general, Dan Morales, who issued Mr Ayi with a subpoena to produce documents confirming the charitable status of his "foundation". The deadline passed yesterday but there was no sign of the papers.

Mr Ayi, 33, claims to be monarch of Guin, part of the West African republic of Togo, and says his family's rule extends back to 1663. He sought funds to help the poor among his "people". Texan understanding of Togo's political system appears to have been sufficiently sketchy to allow him to convince generous hosts that he was an important man. A $50 (£33) a plate fund-raising dinner on Friday night was supported by local politicians, and Mr Ayi was met at Austin airport by dignitaries. A taxi driver gave his services free to the "king" and Austin's womenfolk practised their curtseys.

It now seems they were gulled. Rich Appleton, Togo desk officer at the US State Department, said: "The guy is very, very good at spinning stories. I can tell you this much. There's no kingdom and there's no king."

Togo's Embassy to the United States denied that he was a head of state and speculated that Mr Ayi merely springs from a mildly prominent family in the Togolese village of Glidji. There is no record of Mr Ayi sending money back to Togo's poor, and he last visited the country seven years ago. He has lived in America for ten years.

Robert Moffitt, a public relations specialist who has the title "chief protocol officer to King François A. Ayi" denied that Mr Ayi is a fake. "I doubt we would be going through this if he was a monarch from Britain," he said. "So let's not try him when he is down here on a mission of goodwill."

Beatings admitted by police

Bonn: The German police admitted yesterday that they had manhandled, beaten or verbally abused individual foreigners but denied there was any widespread violation of regulations (Roger Boyes writes). The police union called for more anti-stress and communications training to help officers to cope with their problems.

The report was released at the same time as scathing accounts of German police behaviour were published by Amnesty International, the human rights group. Amnesty cited several cases, including that of a Turkish man detained in Frankfurt, who was allegedly handcuffed, then punched and kicked in his cell by two policemen.

Troops clash

Lagos: Troops from Nigeria and Cameroon clashed over a group of islands, known as the Bakassi peninsula, in the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea, with unconfirmed reports that several were killed. *(Reuter)*

Mass sacking

Sanaa: Hundreds of Yemeni government officials have been sacked for alleged corruption and negligence, after an unannounced inspection by President Saleh of ten ministries. *(AFP)*

Bhutto's strike

Karachi: A general strike called by Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, in solidarity with the separatist uprising in Indian Kashmir brought business and economic life in Pakistan to a halt.

Piracy pledge

Peking: Under American pressure, China has promised to fine or close publishers that supply licences to copyright pirates, hoping to close a loophole used to produce illicit compact discs. *(Reuter)*

Africa birth risk

Geneva: Women in sub-Saharan Africa face a hundred times greater risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth than those in Western Europe, according to a United Nations study. *(Reuter)*

Snooker haul

Phnom Penh: Prompted by truancy, gambling and fighting among high-school students, police raided snooker parlours near schools, confiscating hundreds of snooker balls and cues. *(AFP)*

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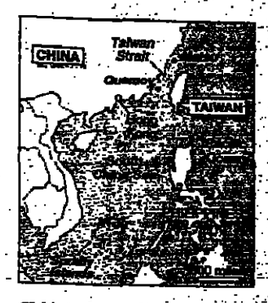
Tension mounts as China mobilises 400,000-man force

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

A HUGE Chinese troop mobilisation along its eastern coast facing Taiwan, ahead of the first presidential elections there, led to mounting tension in East Asia yesterday.

Reports said the build-up of 400,000 men signalled China's determination to prevent Taiwan from declaring independence. Peking has accused President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, who is almost certain to be re-elected in next month's polls, of seeking independent status for the republic.

Sing Tao Daily, a Hong Kong newspaper, reported that China would begin a massive, month-long military exercise this week. It will involve 400,000 infantry, air force and navy personnel, which the paper said showed China's determination to keep Taiwan in check.



The report led to an initial fall in share prices in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital. President Lee declared that Peking was "scared to death" of the scheduled elections.

Peking has not commented so far on the *Sing Tao* report. Earlier reports, which had said massive military exercises would be held near Taiwan either before or after the March 23 polls, were dismissed as "speculative".

Although there has been no independent confirmation of the build-up, *Sing Tao* said the Nanking military district had ordered all its forces to mobilise and that leave for troops had been cancelled.

Last week the United States State Department said it saw "no imminent threat" to Taiwan, but it was monitoring the situation.

Yesterday *The Washington Post* reported that US policy-makers had decided to issue a warning to China that it should cool tensions with Taiwan before any miscalculation led to a serious accident.

Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, in a recent speech, did not rule out the use of force but also did not significantly make fresh threats against Taiwan. But a report by Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, at the end of last month said the success of a series of military exercises last year by the People's Liberation Army had shown that its "military quality have been significantly improved".

Diplomats in Peking said the reports of military action, whether true or false, suited China's style of keeping Taiwan off balance. But they said further Chinese exercises in the Taiwan Strait, of the kind that increased tensions during its missile tests last year, were fraught with risks.

The diplomats believe that Chinese "sabre-rattling" is also to do with uncertainties in domestic politics. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 91, is ailing and all sides involved in the succession issue want to show their nationalist credentials.

□ **Counterfeit ring:** Two Taiwanese fishermen and three Chinese citizens were executed in China for involvement in the biggest case of smuggling fake currency into China. Chinese television said the counterfeit yuan were worth about £2.6 million. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 19



Wu Bangguo, left, China's Deputy Prime Minister, tours the Yunnan region hit by a massive earthquake at the weekend. The death toll may rise to 300 and casualties include a seriously injured foreign tourist

Tremors persist in quake city

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THERE were two large aftershocks yesterday as hundreds of thousands of survivors of China's biggest earthquake in eight years struggled to keep warm in freezing temperatures.

One aftershock measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale shook the tourist town of Lijiang and surrounding villages in the remote Yunnan province in the southwest 30 hours after an earthquake measuring 7.0 killed 240 people and injured 14,000. There were fears that the final death toll could be nearer 300.

Among the injured was a foreign tourist, who was seriously hurt, and four other foreigners, who were slightly injured. There has been a second aftershock of 4.8 and about 180 smaller ones. Lijiang is home to the Naxi ethnic minority and is 1,300 miles from Peking.

More than 186,000 homes have collapsed leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless, officials say. Those whose homes are intact are also staying on the streets, afraid to return indoors.

Peking closing gap in arms technology

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE planned show of force by the Chinese in a military exercise in the strait separating China from Taiwan is seen in the West as a deliberate demonstration of power aimed at unsettling its capitalist neighbour.

However, although the reported month-long amphibious exercise involving 40 naval vessels and more than 100 aircraft will serve as a reminder of China's military power, Taiwan's continuing strength as the potential David to Peking's Goliath has been its acquisition of superior defence technology. China has always been a generation behind Taiwan in terms of its main weapons, although the Chinese are slowly narrowing the gap.

On paper, however, there is no contest. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in its latest *Military Balance*, China has an army of 2.2 million, up to 8,000 main battle tanks, 2,000 light tanks, 4,500 armoured infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, 14,500 towed artillery pieces and 3,800 multiple-rocket launchers.

The Chinese Navy has 52 submarines, 18 destroyers, 32 frigates and about 870 patrol and coastal vessels. Its naval air force has 855 shore-based combat aircraft and 68 armed helicopters. It also has a marine force of 5,000 and 25,000 coastal defence troops. The Chinese Air Force has about 4,970 combat aircraft, some of them nuclear-capable.

By comparison, Taiwan has an army of 240,000, with 570 main battle tanks and 905 light tanks. Its navy consists of four submarines, 22 destroyers, 16 frigates and 98 patrol and coastal vessels. The Taiwanese Air Force has 430 combat aircraft.

Relics prove Buddha was born in Nepal

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S few remaining Buddhists, hurt and perplexed by the demise of their faith in the country of its birth, will be further wounded by news from Nepal that the Buddha was not an Indian.

An international team of scientists has reported finding relics under the Mayadevi temple in Lumbini, 200 miles southwest of Kathmandu, proving that Lord Buddha was born there. Most Indian history books proclaim that Guatam Siddhar was born in northern India, although British encyclopaedias favour Nepal.

Archaeologists from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Japan made the find nine months ago, but the Nepali Government delayed an announcement while it consulted other experts.

"It is a matter of pride for all of us that the sacred birthplace of Lord Buddha has been discovered," Sher Bahadur Deuba, the Prime Minister, said.

This rewrite of Indian history is embarrassing, given that some books specifically state that the Buddha was born in Gorakhpur district in modern-day Uttar Pradesh.

The archaeologists found a commemorative stone on bricks dating from the era of Emperor Ashoka, a convert to Buddhism who ruled much of the Indian subcontinent and visited Lumbini in 249 BC. This tallies with ancient Buddhist literature that says he placed a stone on top of bricks at the site of Prince Siddhartha's birth, believed to have been in 623 BC.

Ashoka also built a nearby pillar, which still stands. There is now little doubt that this was meant as a marker for the Buddha's birthplace.

Hong Kong officials get lesson in communism

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Government has published a guide for civil servants on the Chinese Communist Party.

In 37 pages the booklet "aims to give our civil servants some idea of the basics of China in a self-learning form". Academics were commissioned to draft the survey, and were to told to provide the facts only, the civil service spokesman added.

The Communist Party of China begins in the party's second year, 1921, and apart from a few comments the history ends in 1982. What civil servants are getting is a version approved by Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader.

The Deng version of party history emerged in its clearest form in 1981, with the *Resolution on Certain Questions in Party History*. In this version it is admitted that the party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung made mistakes, some serious, in the period up to Mao's death in 1976, that Mr Deng had attempted unsuccessfully to prevent them while Mao was still alive, and thereafter set China on the right path.



Deng: colony printed his version of party history

The study's language resembles party style. The party's founders are remembered for "repudiating feudalism, advocating democracy and science, and promulgating Marxism ..." Feudalism is party jargon for the bad past.

Omissions mar the presentation. The most startling is omitting any mention of the Hong Kong branch of the party.

After 1949, no mention is made of the killing of at least one million landlords or of the persecution of hundreds of thousands of intellectuals. The break with the Soviet Union is unrecorded. Neither the catastrophe of the Cultural Revolution nor the Gang of Four is mentioned. The study ends in 1982, "beginning the era of Deng Xiaoping". The crackdown in Tiananmen Square is also left out.

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Day two: Therapies around the world — and where the stars go

Little Amber's Chinese cure

Alternative health



TODAY

- The rise of Chinese herbal therapies
- Where celebrities take their treatment
- The risks of getting the diagnosis wrong

CHINESE MEDICINE

When Amber Stanley-Bristowe was two weeks old, her parents were told that without a complex operation to remove her bile duct, their daughter had only months to live. Even if it was successful, she would spend the rest of her life on medication.

Desperate to avoid such a drastic measure, Donald and Karen Stanley-Bristowe decided to explore alternative remedies and were put in touch with the Chinese health centre run by Dr Duo Gao. "He took her pulses and touched her stomach before making up a herbal tea which I gave to her twice a day for about three weeks," Mr Stanley-Bristowe says.



Amber Stanley-Bristowe and her mother

A week into the treatment, Amber's doctors requested that she have another liver biopsy. This time, they said her liver had improved and their original diagnosis was no longer valid.

"Amber was due to have the bile duct operation in two days — if that had failed she might have had a liver transplant — but after the biopsy the doctors said her liver had improved naturally and there was no need for the operation," Mrs Stanley-Bristowe said.

Brian Wilce is another of Dr Gao's satisfied patients. Four years ago, aged 56, he developed diabetes and had resigned himself to a strict sugar-free diet and regular insulin injections.

After questioning him on diet and lifestyle, Dr Gao prescribed a combination of herbs and advised him to drink less alcohol. He had to return three weeks later and the "prescription" was modified. "About four months later Dr Gao told me I didn't need to come and see him any more." Using an ExacTech blood glucose sensor, Mr Wilce found that his blood sugar level had fallen to near normal.

Dr Gao, considered one of the top five Chinese medicine practitioners in the world, works from the Chinese Herbal Medicine and Health Care Centre in Fulham, southwest London. Here, with shelves full of herbs, roots and beans, Dr Gao and his partner, Dr Yilan Shen — who are both trained in Western as well as Chinese medicine — treat disorders ranging from diabetes, allergies and infertility to chest pains and rheumatism.

Chinese medicine is primarily based on two books transcribed 2,000 years ago, the *Ben Chou Gan Mu* and the *Yi Zhing Ji Jian*, Dr Shen explains. While Western medicine tends to concentrate on specific, isolated areas of disease, Chinese herbal medicine emphasises the interaction of body, mind and spirit, together with man's relationship with the environment.

"We place a great deal of emphasis on the *Qi* [pronounced Chi], which is the life force, or vital energy of the person. Chinese doctors believe that this *Qi* can be improved and enhanced."

Where Western doctors look for a cause or causal agent such as an individual virus or bacterium, Chinese medicine will take into account the mental state of the patient, his or her environment, lifestyle and any events which may have resulted in imbalance.

A typical visit to the Fulham surgery takes around half an hour. Patients explain their problem and then their pulses are examined. "In the left wrist there are three points which correspond to the heart, liver and kidney," Dr Shen says. "In the right the three points relate to lung, stomach/spleen and kidney. There are 28 variations of pulse pace which enable us to identify things like high blood pressure." The doctors also evaluate tongue and facial colour.

"We then prescribe a combination of herbs, selecting around four from a total of 400 we could use. They are to be soaked in water, boiled and drunk," Dr Shen says.

There is scepticism over Chinese treatments — some doctors believe recovery is coincidental, or the result of an improved psychological attitude. There have also been well documented cases of poisoning apparently deriving from herbal potions.

These instances, Dr Shen says, are few and far between and the result of unscrupulous practitioners who have only superficial knowledge of Chinese medicine. Chinese doctors in Britain are hoping to establish a governing body to regulate their practice.

KATHRYN KNIGHT



TONY STONE

While Western doctors concentrate on specific, isolated areas of disease, Chinese herbal medicine emphasises the interaction of body, mind and spirit

Where the smart set go

FASHIONABLE CLINICS

WITH its polished wooden interior and expensive tiles, The Life Centre, in west London, looks like an upmarket hairdresser. But the centre has become a haven for stressed professionals and celebrities such as Cher and Brian Eno.

At reception, you can buy rainbow crystals, Mayan chiming balls and rainsticks. The building has even been Feng-Shui-ed, to ensure that the building's maximum *Qi* or universal energy is maximised.

The Life Centre is to the gym what a kitten is to a rottweiler. "What we are offering is a natural lifestyle, which doesn't involve sweating buckets," says Diana Heyer, a reflexologist and centre administrator.

The centre specialises in dynamic yoga, a high-energy workout which involves nearly every muscle and the utmost concentration on breathing. Visitors can also choose from a smorgasbord of alternative therapies, which range from more recognised treatments such as acupuncture and osteopathy, to numerology. Prices vary from £7 for an hour's yoga class to £65 for an hour's psychotherapy.



Hale visitor: the Duchess

While the Life Centre radiates New-Ageism, the Hale Clinic, the prototype of alternative health centres, bristles with efficiency. The Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and Ruby Wax are among the clinic's 1,000 visitors a week.

"Many people see us as the last-chance saloon when conventional medicine has been unable to help," says Jane Marten, the sales manager. The dimly lit clinic's atmosphere is low-key and reassuring. Men and women in white coats hurry about. The air is filled with the slightly rancid aroma of health food, emanating from the well-stocked shop.

New patients visit a "gatekeeper", one of 20 doctors, trained not only in conventional medicine but in a range of disciplines. From there they will be referred to one of the 100 therapists, specialising in everything from hypnosis to colonic irrigation, which was made famous by the Princess of Wales.

Treatments cost, on average, £50 an hour. "We do have a reputation of being very upmarket, but this is more than a spa," says Ms Marten. "This is about health, not lifestyles."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

Life Centre, 15 Edge Street, London W8 (0171-221 4602). Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1 (0171-631 0156)

Approach alternative remedies with caution

THE DANGERS OF MISDIAGNOSIS

I FIRST encountered alternative medicine during my early months in a general practice in Norfolk. I was called to an isolated cottage to see a cowman. He was in bed, pale, thin and paralysed from the waist down. Apparently he had complained for several months of severe low backache; he had continued working although he was in agony and had lost weight. Desperate to rid himself of the torment he visited a local bone manipulator who twisted his spine this way and that way. There was a loud click and the cowman was paralysed. It later transpired he had secondary malignant growths in his spine and as cancerous bones are weakened it had fractured easily.

The cowman's case provided a valuable lesson: not that manipulation was necessarily unhelpful, for it can be miraculous, but that any spine which is going to be manipulated should first be carefully X-rayed and, in doubtful cases, examined with an MRI scanner.

In the 1950s and 1960s the BMA was very conservative: it was presided over by men of stature who, dressed in dark suits and wearing watch chains, behaved like senior civil servants and shared the values of Mary Whitehouse. The idea that any qualified doctor would consider co-operating with an osteopath (unless medically qualified), a chiropractor or any other advocate of alternative medicine was anathema, and if detected in his or her iniquity the doctor would be struck off. I never shared the BMA or GMC views and disobeyed their diktats, for I had seen too many people helped by medically unqualified people practising one or other of the alternative medical arts. What was apparent from the case of the cowman and many other instances was that although masseurs and manipulators have great physical skills their powers of diagnosis are often exaggerated, and their understanding of basic medical science is not matched by clinical experience.



DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Manipulation was the first of the alternative medical skills to be accepted; unfortunately claims that it is able to cure a host of complaints which could only remotely be associated with the spine should be greeted with considerable suspicion. One practitioner not only lists a wide range of orthopaedic problems that can be alleviated but also asthma, fatigue, high blood pressure, sinusitis, heartburn, hiatus hernia, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome, diverticulitis, skin diseases and menstrual problems.

The study of herbs is often thought of as an alternative medicine but in the past the great majority of medicines were herbal: traditional herbal medicines are still used and recent research has found new powerful drugs in plants, capable in some instances even of controlling cancer. However, dead cows that have eaten yew, or children who have swallowed laburnum illustrate that all that is natural is not benign. Gabrielle Hatfield, in her book *Country Remedies*, describes a wide variety of plant nostrums which, within living memory, were still being used in country districts. She draws a distinction between traditional domestic medicines which used local plants and the advent of 19th-century herbal medicines which relied heavily on imported herbs. Research on Chinese herbal medicines by dermatologists at the Royal Free Hospital in London has not only confirmed their ability to succeed when orthodox medicines have failed, but has also demonstrated a power to cause serious side-effects.

The help that patients can derive from manipulation, herbal medicine, relaxation therapy and other complementary aids is clear. But that doesn't mean their practitioners have the training to make a diagnosis which, if delayed, could be life-threatening. Having spinal manipulation for heartburn and indigestion could deprive the patient of an early diagnosis of cancer of the oesophagus. Consult your doctor first.

VIEW FROM ABROAD

- **FRANCE:** Alternative medicine enjoys a high level of respect among patients and the medical establishment, with many French GPs practising both homoeopathy and acupuncture. More than one in three people use homoeopathic remedies; however, such treatments are not reimbursed by social security.
- **GERMANY:** Some 50 per cent of the population say they use natural or herbal medicine and orthodox doctors have used elements of homoeopathy and natural medicine since the 1920s. Spa cures have been a standard part of German culture for 200 years. Since 1950 they have also been available through the national health system, as are many of the costs of prescribed alternative treatments.
- **ITALY:** The medical establishment remains highly sceptical of alternative medicine. However, a population disappointed with the shortcomings of its ramshackle national health system is turning increasingly to homeopathy, acupuncture, traditional herbal medicine and shiatzu massage. But people have to pay, since most private insurance policies do not cover alternative remedies.
- **SPAIN:** Alternative medicine is widely practised in Spain and every major city has health shops offering everything from herbs to patent medicines. The attitude of the medical profession is one of cynical tolerance. South American doctors practising their own traditional medicine are popular here. Alternative treatments are not available on the health service.
- **ISRAEL:** Given the rapidly increasing popularity of alternative medicine, it is no surprise that a shop devoted to Chinese herbal recipes has opened in Jerusalem. aromatherapy and reflexology are also fashionable. None of these can be obtained on the health service. Orthodox practitioners tend to oppose alternative treatments, apart from osteopathy and chiropractic, claiming their popularity is a symptom of increased stress.
- **UNITED STATES:** Alternative medicine is booming with oriental medicine becoming popular. Treatments are cheaper than orthodox medicine. America's 10,000 alternative practitioners are more regulated than in Britain. The first licences were issued to practitioners in 1974, and some have been successfully prosecuted for practising without a licence.

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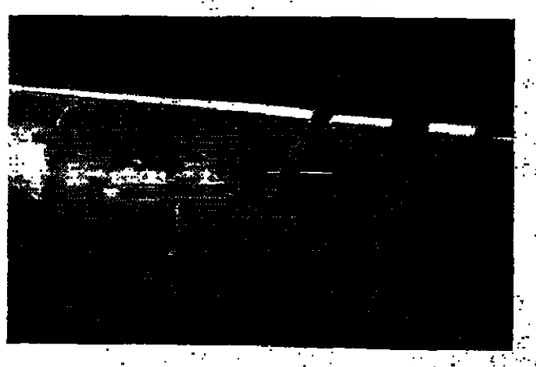
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The pistol-packing mommas are back

Carrying a handgun has become *de rigueur* for America's rich and famous women. Quentin Letts on the return of the pearl-encrusted pistol



When Clarissa Bronfman disclosed the other day that she sometimes carries a miniature revolver in her handbag, it confirmed a trend that has gained ground in recent years. American women, quietly, calmly, are choosing to "pack heat", as the expression goes. The days of the pearl-encrusted pistol are back.

Gun dealers report a surge in the number of sales to women, and male instructors at shooting ranges no longer react with surprise when a "dame" arrives for a session of target practice. From female judges to single mothers, there appears to be a steady rise in handgun ownership. The women have their role models — Cybill Shepherd, Dolly Parton and Joan Rivers — but for those who buy a gun as a fashion accessory there are as many who carry a "piece" for protection.

> 'Packing a pistol has become a sign of social status'

Mrs Bronfman, who let slip her gun habit to American *Vogue*, is bright, beautiful and rich in her own right. Edgar Bronfman Jr, the whiskey heir, courted her with a bombardment of roses and love songs. He would fly 2,000 miles to take her out to dinner, and promised her the world. But Clarissa Alcock, as she then was, was no pushover. She demonstrated her independence at a restaurant one night when she produced from her handbag a highly polished gun and casually entrusted it to the care of the young man behind the coat-check counter.

Joan Rivers has two guns, a .38 and a .357, as favoured by "Dirty Harry". Mary Lou Whitney, the philanthropist and unofficial queen of Kentucky and Saratoga society, feels comfortable with a pistol at her side. Billionaire John Kluge's former wife, Pat, is another ace shot, and Diane Feinstein, the Democrat Senator for California, has recently acquired a handgun permit.

In New York City, which has the strictest gun control laws in America, permits are more readily given to the rich or to people in public life on the ground that they can demonstrate a greater need for self-protection. The process of acquiring a permit takes time and costs money. The net result is that packing a gun in your vanity bag is a sign of social status. Just as Leona Helmsley said that only little people pay taxes, so handgun ownership is for plutocrats.

At New York's Downtown Rifle and Pistol Club, where members can practise on a 75ft range and load up on ammunition and gun chat, regulars include actresses, media babes and a female heart surgeon.

Sales of the Smith & Wesson Ladysmith, a $562 gun introduced four years ago at the first signs of the female gun growth, have done well. Frank Ingrassia, New York's top gun dealer and head of the local branch of the National Rifle Association, sells the Ladysmiths almost as fast as he can unpack them.

Derringer makes a weapon that is small enough to fit inside a belt buckle, though specialists say it is too small to be accurate; and sales of AMT's $295 pistol, compact enough for the female hand, are flourishing.

Mr Ingrassia's John Jovino shop, near Chinatown, has window mannequins dressed in bullet-proof vests and a huge gun sign over its front door. Inside, the lighting is harsh, the counters groan with firearms hardware, and there is a smell of gun oil. To this decidedly male shop, women arrive in burgeoning numbers. There have been diplomats' wives and Upper East Side heiresses, female lawyers and career girls. On the evening I visited the shop, a cool blonde squinted one eye in expert appraisal down a pistol barrel.

Mr Ingrassia has the air of a piano tuner and his delight is palpable when he pulls down two pearl-inset, gold-plated guns, one a Colt Automatic, the other a pretty Browning .25 Automatic. Though deadly, they are things of beauty. "Gold-plated guns say that you're powerful in two ways," he says. "You've got money, and you've got *that gun* in your hand."

Quite apart from the self-protection aspects, women who carry guns have become one of Hollywood's erotic fixations. The opening credits of James Bond films feature lithe female forms alongside gun barrels and pistol grips, while movies such as *Thelma and Louise*, *Blue Steel* and *Natural Born Killers* have promoted an image of women in command of deadly weapons. We have come a long way since Doris Day's chirpy *You can't get a Man with a Gun* in *Calamity Jane*.

Photographs of women in gun magazines are increasingly common, and gun advertisements have appeared alongside the nappy ads in women's glossies. Larry Pratt, director of the lobby group Gun Owners of America, says that firearms dealers across the country are reporting an increase in female customers. The gun legislation debate in America is familiar ground, and Mr Pratt comes out with all statistics blazing. "There are 30,000 attempts at rape every year in America," he says. "In 32 per cent of cases the rape is carried out, but when the woman has access to a gun that figure drops to 3 per cent." Car bumper stickers note that "Nobody Ever Raped A .38" and Mr Pratt adds: "A guy's ardour cools when he sees a gun."



Cybill Shepherd (top) and Joan Rivers (above) have become role models for women with handguns

Mr Pratt tells the story of a woman he knows who urged her new husband to get rid of his gun, saying she would not have it in her house. Some days later she found herself alone in the house when burglars struck. Terrified, she locked herself in her bedroom. When she saw the door handle being tested she shouted: "You guys had better get out of here, because *I* have a gun."

The burglars promptly fled, and the woman is now not only a member of the local gun club, she is also, like Clarissa Bronfman, a first-class marksman.



Sex change operations don't work

Nigella Lawson wonders if there is not a better way to solve the sufferings of transsexuals

I know, to my cost, that adverse comment about the Royal Family or the airing of insufficiently sentimental and therefore un-English views about animals inevitably excite the biggest posthag. But for sheer vitriol and threatening aggression — or perhaps rather more accurately, defensiveness — you cannot beat the transsexual correspondent.

I have twice, in completely different contexts, written about transsexuality. In neither case did I ridicule or sneer at those who claim to be trapped — that is inevitably, word for word, the complaint — in the wrong body, but I did question them, and it and hence a batch of letters, the hostility of which it is hard to convey.

Perhaps one of the most telling symptoms of the transsexual is that there is no other interpretation allowed of their malaise than the one they choose to put on it.

As tonight's moving television programme, *The Wrong Body* (part of Channel 4's Decision series) shows, even while transsexuals complain about the intolerance that the rest of us have for them and their condition, it is they who are so intolerant.

In the first instance, they cannot tolerate their sex, in fact are so unable to tolerate it that the only way they have of dealing with it is first to deny it and then, if possible, to do away with it.

But this intolerance extends to a refusal to consider any other explanation for their distress, indeed to a tendency to feel annihilated by any such unauthorised approach. There is obviously an identity problem here, but I cannot help feeling that it is not one that can always so easily be solved with a sex-change operation — or, as it is now called, gender reassignment.

The issue of this operation, and whether it should be available on the National Health Service, is becoming ever hotter. More and more health authorities are refusing treatment, and indeed only last week a number of transsexuals who have been unable to receive the treatment they want on the NHS began legal action to try to enforce their rights to it.

At the same time, a rather more straightforward legal battle is being fought to allow transsexuals to alter their birth certificates following surgery, so that their given sex accords with the sex they have been changed into. I'll agree that it does seem crassly illogical to allow people to have sex-change operations perfectly legally, but then use the law to prevent their living as the sex they've, to all intents and purposes, become.

What I'm not saying is that such operations should be outlawed. Those who want undiseased breasts and wombs and penises removed are right, of course, to say that it is their body, their choice. The NHS may also be right, at times, to respond that it is their budget, their choice. But it must be wrong for the issue to be decided on grounds of funds and finance. The question is, what is the nature of the problem and what therefore is the appropriate treatment?

Treatment there should definitely be — these people are suffering horrendously — but I cannot see that this should inevitably be in the form of surgery. All transsexuals are utterly convinced that they are, as they say, trapped in the wrong body. But does this make them right? I know psychiatric care is already provided, but there must be some kind of approach that might help people to really work out what is at the root of this incredible distress.

I was stunned in the programme by two unconnected comments by a couple of the girls who wish to be boys. The one, in her/his late teens, spoke of her/his horror at developing breasts at puberty: "I wanted to be like my father." The other, a child of 13, brought up by mother and stepfather, said that she/he wanted to be called Rick — "short for Richard which is my Dad's name". You don't need to be Freud to see there is something going on there.

The voiceover of tonight's programme, however, reported that some post-mortems of transsexuals showed that their brains accorded with the sex they thought they should be rather than with the sex their genes made them. This, if true, would indeed be staggering evidence, though the vague, unscientific nature of its reporting hardly makes it sound, thus far, conclusive.

● The Decision: The Wrong Body *is on Channel 4 at 9pm.*



April Ashley, left, Britain's best-known transsexual

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SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

AT FIRST glance, the well-groomed business traveller, with his Louis Vuitton luggage and 96-page passport, may not appear to have much in common with the snotty-nosed Cub Scout, more concerned with his woggle than world trade. But they share an obsession — both will do anything to get a gold badge.

The blue, silver and gold tiers of British Airways' Executive Club have become the most important indicators of rank since the erosion of the class system, and an accompanying snobbery is rife.

The Executive Club is linked to the Air Miles scheme, a reward for regular business travellers who would not otherwise bother to shop around. But the colour of your membership card is as much about kudos as convenience.

Bottom of the line is the blue card, issued to any business flyer, and used to register the Air Miles which may one day yield a free trip to Torremolinos. But make, say, consecutive return trips to Sydney, New York and Paris, and you have the 700 points needed for promotion to silver membership.

The new card will get you into the executive lounges normally reserved for first and club-class travellers. You will also get the silver luggage tags which are the must-have accessory of the modern traveller, and make you king of the airport.

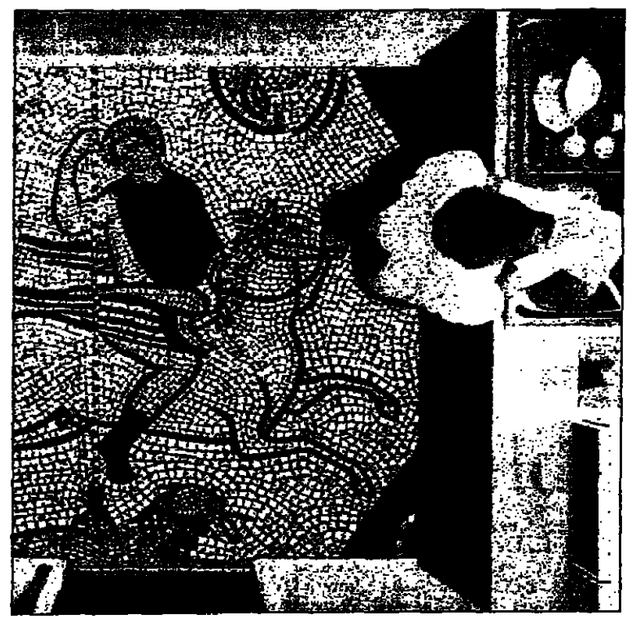
Until, of course, someone arrives with a gold tag on his briefcase. He will have made at least another three trips to Australia, and can expect airport staff to notice his label and whisk him off for priority check-in, free travel insurance, bump-ups to first class, and general sycophancy.

Rampant one-upmanship has members slapping as many tickets on their bags as they can, to taunt their envious co-travellers. But according to Alex McWhirter of *Business Traveller* magazine, the scheme has its dark side.

"In America," he says, "people are so desperate for gold status that they take roundabout routes to accrue Air Miles — flying New York to London via Zurich, for example — and agents are having to police business routes because 'clubbers' are costing companies money."

Suddenly, no more registering Air Miles in your wife's name to beat the taxman — for without them your status will remain blue. And no more unclaimed Air Miles either — at present there are 2.75 billion in circulation, enough to take an adventurous businessman to Neptune.

One mystery remains. "There *is* a premier card," a BA spokesman told me. "But we do not talk about it. I can say no more than that it is issued only to our most valued customers." Rumour holds the card to be platinum, but who has one and how far they had to go is shrouded in secrecy. The Duchess of York, it is said, must now be close to the premier league. So if ever you see a red-head in sunglasses with platinum tags on her luggage, you can be fairly sure it is someone using up her free mileage.



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Judgment day for the educators

Chris Woodhead charts the way forward for failing schools

Primary schools, for so long the poor relation of secondary, are now very much in the public eye. The most important conclusion in my annual report as Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, published yesterday, is that standards of literacy and numeracy must be raised. The second is that the quality of teaching in the junior age range must be improved significantly in perhaps half o all primary schools.

Why does underachievement remain endemic in so many schools? Why is it that, despite the hard work and dedication, the genuine concern for children which the majority of teachers demonstrate, it is proving so hard to raise standards? If some schools can do it, why can't others? Why is it that standards need to be raised in half of all primary schools, when in others the quality of teaching and standards of pupil achievement are so exceptionally high? What is happening in these outstanding schools which has yet to happen in many others?

Over the past year or so, I have put these questions to primary head teachers in meetings across the country. Nobody can defend a situation in which between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of lessons are unsatisfactorily taught. So why has nothing happened?

> If some schools can do it, why can't all the others?

One set of answers concerns the context in which teachers work. If primary schools had more resources, I am told, then standards would immediately rise. If the media, fuelled by evidence from "negative and punitive" inspection reports, did not focus remorselessly on weaknesses and depress morale, then all would be well. If the Government had not "imposed" an unworkable national curriculum and pushed through a huge programme of reform at unworkable speed, then, I am told, there would be no problem.

There is a truth in each of these responses. A minority of schools are clearly experiencing significant difficulties in providing resources for the national curriculum. Ofsted has a responsibility to identify success as well as failure. I recognise that the national curriculum has had to be revised.

But these arguments are not a sufficient explanation. The problems lie as much within the profession as without. To begin with, there is the pressing need to do more than has been done in the past about the minority of incompetent teachers who are failing our children. They are an extremely serious problem, but, given proper management will, it is relatively tractable.

What is much more difficult — being both more nebulous and more pervasive — is the failure to question beliefs, about the nature of education and how children should be taught, which in practice obstruct their intellectual development. I have in mind, for example, the belief that the national curriculum militates against the teacher's responsibility to develop the unique potential of each child; the antipathy to didactic teaching, and the reluctance to *challenge* children which flows from the concept of the teacher as a facilitator. Above all else, the continuing commitment to such ideas in too many schools explains why it is proving so difficult to raise standards of primary education.

We must, therefore, probe these beliefs. In part, they stem from the influence of academics and educational advisers who are not convinced of the need to rethink current assumptions about what and how children should be taught.

Furthermore, primary teachers, unlike their secondary colleagues, have never had a professional identity which relates to the subject they teach. The secondary teacher is usually a graduate in a particular discipline. Not so the primary teacher, who, after four years spent studying a range of academic subjects and a number of courses in the theory and practice of education, has, more often than not, to teach all nine subjects of the national curriculum. So, inadequately prepared, and faced with a challenge of this magnitude, some primary teachers understandably embrace an educational theory which plays down the importance of intellectual content, and puts a concern for the child at the heart of the educational process. Everything possible, therefore, must be done in the initial and in-service training of teachers to ensure that they have the firm grasp of the subject knowledge they need.

Beyond this, the key to raising standards lies in the new system of school inspections. Before 1992, a primary school could expect to be inspected once every 200 years. Now it is once every four years. As a consequence, the gap between the achievements of the outstanding and the failure of the weaker schools has been thrown into sharp relief. This is true not just when comparing schools in leafy suburbs with those in inner cities. Schools serving very similar communities achieve very different results. The clearer this variation in achievement becomes, the less easy it is for anyone to justify it.

Not surprisingly, those who feel most threatened by the spotlight of accountability have mounted a vigorous attack on an inspection regime which they deem to be "judgmental" and "punitive". Judgmental, yes. To inspect a school obviously means coming to a conclusion about its strengths and weaknesses. If a school is failing, then its weaknesses need to be brought out into the open, so that parents are informed and something can be done. But is this really "punitive"? Only, I would have thought, to those teachers who are unable to accept that they must be accountable to the parents of the children they teach.



Stringing us along

Michael Heseltine is wrong to defend late payers who are indebted to small businesses to the tune of £20 billion

Libby Purves

Witty, adventurous, untroubled by scruple, Becky Sharp of *Vanity Fair* is one of the great archetypes of literature. Nobody, from her landlord to the baby's wetnurse, was paid if it could be avoided; she haggled out of old debts at ninepence in the pound, and immediately borrowed more. When she did pay a little on account, she did it with such pretty speeches that the creditors were lulled into a false security. Michael Heseltine would have been proud of her.

That novel was published in 1847, and proves that 150 years ago there was already a recognised and established tradition in this country of, as Mr Heseltine has jovially put it, being "quite skilful at stringing along the creditors". Late payment, he said, is part of the culture of British business. Challenged, he stuck to his guns, saying that growing businesses need tolerance. "It is precisely because I started a small business from scratch, lived with the problems of it, accepted the discipline of it and survived the competitive race that I am not disposed to listen to a lecture."

Read that carefully, twice. We shall come back to it. It is a not unappealing argument, especially from a man who now seems so rich and secure. The Deputy Prime Minister could have turned respectable on us and denied his past; his party rather wishes he had. But no, he is still proud of the fact that he started out with a tiny capital and muscled his way into the big league. "Everyone got paid in the end, and that is all they care about," he added.

Yesterday his old business partner, Ian Josephs, elaborated on how they did it. They sent out cheques with only one signature, which were then refused by the bank, and pretended it was a mistake. They made sure words and figures on the cheque did not match (banks used to check such things). "If someone did serve a writ," says Mr Josephs, "So what? You don't answer it or you say you don't owe it. If it got to court, by then you would have the money and you could pay the bloke . . . it is just a question of nerve." Indeed; and he does not even mention the dozen other routine tactics for delaying due payments.

You can pretend the invoice never arrived, query the VAT number, or laughingly explain that another supplier of the same name has been credited with the "moneys". You can confide that Accounts has relocated to Swindon: or say in hushed tones that Denise handles group C payments, and Denise's golden-haired child has just been rushed to hospital with a mystery virus. There is the BBC gambit (although I absolve them from doing it on purpose) in which a saintly, aggrieved voice says that since you live in Suffolk, you were "obviously" handled from Birmingham "until the changeover", so that explains it. Or you can claim a computer virus. A really skilled late-payer can manage to make a creditor feel thoroughly silly for asking after a missing £300, and simultaneously dangle a potential £3,000 job in front of him as a distraction.

The one thing these cowboys rarely do, for all their fabled nerve, is to come right out with it and say they are a bit strapped at the moment, but confident that a postal order will turn up any minute. Such straightforwardness is not in what Mr Heseltine calls the "culture". Business is about bravado and bluff, and ruder b-words which you may fill in at your leisure while waiting for your favourite debtor to pick up the telephone. These b's add up to £20 billion overdue in Britain at any given moment. Government action on late payment is often promised but never quite delivered. Bravado and bluff continue to make fortunes — and to cost money and time and efficiency and livelihoods. The CBI says one in five small firms feels its very survival threatened by late payment.

Which is where we come back to Mr Heseltine. He claimed to speak on behalf of small businesses needing "tolerance" of their stringing-along behaviour. He himself has "lived with the problems and accepted the discipline" (what discipline?) There is something perilously seductive about that line of talk, and there is no point in us holy-joe chatterers condemning it out of hand. Some of the audience, especially in his own age group, will have been nodding. The idea of being a nippy little scavenger in the business jungle, "stringing along" big meanies, has some attraction. Most of my friends and neighbours are small traders of some kind, from journalists to caterers, and most of us say things like "If we go, the NatWest goes with us!" However, decent people pay smaller local operators — feed merchants, plumbers, farriers, crockery hirers — on the nail, if not on the day, so transferring the risk instantly to the poor old bank.

But the trouble is, and Mr Heseltine did not acknowledge this, that today it is not the cheeky little jackals who benefit most from this "culture" of late payment. It is the lords of the jungle who have learnt to play the game. For every chirpy little company which uses late payment to help its cashflow, there are a dozen which are victims of it.

All the research, including the Latham commission's report on the construction industry, suggests that what happens is this. Your small specialist supplies a giant company. Whether you are a grower of Brussels sprouts being patronised by a supermarket chain or a supplier of chic tiling for executive homes, a big client is a big break. You rejoice in the order and meet the deadline. The giant doesn't pay. Your wage bill must be met. You sweat, you remortgage your house, you run up an expensive overdraft; you turn down other business because you can't buy materials. But you dare not complain because this is a major customer. They could drop you, and put the word around at livery dinners that Tibbott's Tiles or Sussex Sprout Farms is bad news. So you wait. They pay — eventually, but sometimes too late. Any small, precarious operator, from voice-over artistes to engineering components manufacturers, will tell you how the fear of going broke struggles with the fear of offending influential clients, and how debilitating it is, sapping creativity, confidence and the very will to survive.

A large company with a legal department can always bully a small one; the reverse is not true. Possibly when naughty young Mike was "stringing along the creditors" in the 1960s, things were different. Perhaps big companies had not become so fly, or unscrupulous. Perhaps — since he dealt in bed-and-breakfast hotels and magazines — he mainly experienced the kind of customers who have to pay upfront, and never suffered from late payers himself. Either way, in the ecology of modern British business his apologia for the stringalong culture is weak, dated and unethical.

Moreover, while it may fatten a few big cats, it does nothing for the nation at large. Unethical business is an enemy of prosperity. One company may enrich itself by hanging on to another's money, but the collapse of the creditor firm will cost every taxpayer something. I would take it further: if businesspeople take stupid, grandiose, Maxwellian, Barings-esque risks with imaginary money, there will always be Maxwellian or Barings-esque trouble. Margaret Thatcher spent much of the 1980s lecturing us on sound money and good housekeeping, but by some oversight she failed to notice that business was actually behaving more and more like Becky Sharp. And there is no such thing as notional money: it is always somebody's.

Thackeray's account of Becky Sharp ends with a timeless account of the effect all this picturesque buccaneering actually has:

> When we read that a nobleman has left for the Continent and owes six or seven millions, the defeat seems glorious even, and we respect the victim in the vastness of his ruin. But who pities a poor barber who can't get his money for powdering the footmen's heads; or a poor carpenter who has ruined himself by fixing up ornaments and pavilions for my ladies' *dejeuner*; or the poor devil of a tailor who has pledged all he is worth and more, to get the liveries ready which my lord has done him the honour to bespeak? — when the great house tumbles down, these miserable wretches fall under it unnoticed . . . before a man goes to the devil himself he sends plenty of other souls thither.

Of course, Mr Heseltine was able to pay everybody, eventually. Lucky, eh?

Betrayal of honest thinking

Bring back imagination, says **Anatole Kaletsky**

What will become of Europe if Europeans lose their capacity to think? As they mouth slogans about competitiveness and the challenge of the global market, Europe's politicians and businessmen are in danger of forgetting that Europe has one and only one genuine competitive advantage: the capacity to think, to argue, to defy conventional authority and so to innovate. If Europeans lose the ability to think openly and critically, we will indeed be overtaken by such closed societies as China, not to mention Korea and Singapore.

Yet clear, honest thinkers are an endangered species in Europe. Many politicians, especially in Brussels and Paris, seem determined to extinguish critical debate in European public life. And the paralysis seems to be spreading to business.

This is the frightening thought that struck me at the World Economic Forum, an intellectual cornucopia served every winter in the Swiss resort of Davos to a thousand businessmen by an astonishing array of politicians, economic officials, management theorists and Nobel prizewinning scientists and artists. This year two contradictory leitmotifs ran through the forum. For the Americans and Asians, the Central Europeans and even many of the Russians, the future seemed to be full of the excitement of new technology and new political systems, the opportunities of entering the global market and recasting management structures in a world of constant innovation and rapid growth.

But the West Europeans seemed to be living on a different planet. For our politicians, the great issues were not the future of Russia or America's increasing lead in the industries of the future, but monetary union and EU enlargement. For our businessmen, competitiveness was not about harnessing technology or turning change into a factor of competitive advantage; it was a matter of governments reducing regulation, unions accepting lower wages and electorates agreeing to welfare reforms.

The Americans and Asians seemed to be pulling out of the gloom of the last recession, preparing for growth and taking responsibility for their own future. The Europeans seemed always to be looking backwards — to the Treaty of Maastricht or the heyday of the welfare state — and trying to pass the buck, from business to government or from politicians to central bankers.

Worse still was the absence of honest debate or intellectual curiosity, among the Europeans. Monolithic thinking is suffocating Europe's political culture. The obsession with EMU has distracted politicians from much more important matters, such as the relationships with America and Russia, reform of the welfare state and even the monetary arrangements between the dollar and the mark. To make things worse, having focused all their attention on EMU they have now declared EMU out o bounds for serious debate. The future of Europe is deemed to revolv around EMU, but any open discussion about EMU is deemed anti European. Ergo it is now anti European to discuss Europe's future

This conspiracy of silence explains much of the disillusionment with politics in Europe as well as the woeful mismanagement of monetary policy in bot Germany and France. But wha struck me in Davos was that mon lithic thinking also threatens Eu rope's economic and business life.

Consider Europe's present obse sion with competitiveness. Intern tional competitiveness, like EMU, probably the wrong issue to preocc py Europe's businessmen in 199 But more serious still, the ne political correctness has made impossible even to discuss compe tiveness intelligently.

International competition is ce tainly not the only reason why Eu ope's unemployment is so high why our welfare states must reformed. Unemployment is al caused by lack of demand, bad ma agement and labour relations and backward industrial structure. T welfare state needs reform because will eventually go bankrupt, r because of competition from Jap and America.

But suppose I am wrong and t root cause of Europe's problems high labour costs, relative to Amer and Japan. Then economics sugge a simple, quick and reliable answ ease monetary policy until Europe currencies fall sharply against dollar and yen. In practice, such a valuation might not be easy or mi have unwelcome side-effects: but discuss competitiveness without ev mentioning monetary policy a exchange rates is either ignorant dishonest. Yet that is exactly the in lectual betrayal now being enforc

So there you have it. Euro politicians have imposed on th selves a vow of silence over what t have deemed the most import issue of the decade: EMU. Euro business leaders refuse to discuss central issue in the competitiver debate. Perhaps the outlook for E ope really is grim in a new cent when the only currencies of value be knowledge, imagination and ir pendent thought.

Stable for two

IT IS A marriage that even the most sceptical punter would rate a racing cert to breed success. Frankie Dettori, the irrepressible Italian-born jockey, who has twice been British champion, is to marry Catherine Allen, daughter of Cambridge University's first professor of equine reproduction.

Dettori, 25, who on Lammtarra won Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, as well as the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe last year, met Catherine at the yard of the trainer David Loder, where she rides. She is training to be a teacher, but has an excellent racing pedigree. Her father is Professor "Twink" Allen who in the autumn took up his regius saddle at Cambridge, after consulting on stud reproductive matters for Sheikh Mohammed.

The jockey has an infectious laugh, and his flamboyant dismounting style has raised eyebrows in the winner's enclosure. But when it came to proposing, he took a leaf out of the chivalrous book of old, popping the question in an Italian restaurant with an attentive audience. A hush descended as fellow diners held their breath to see if she would accept.

"It was a nerve-racking experience, but during the dessert I got on my knee and asked her, and she said yes," says Dettori. Lammtarra apparently tops the wedding invitation list.



Frankie and Catherine: at the starting line

Beer here

TONY BLAIR has accepted a sporting challenge in the House of Commons this Thursday, which should calm fears that he is deserting the ale-and-sandwiches brigade of old Labour.

On Thursday, he will be picking up his arrows and "toeing the oche" in a darts match to commemorate ten years of the provision in the Commons of Federation, the Newcastle beer. His opponent will be John Lowe, twice world darts champion, who is no more shapely than John Prescott.

● *The rougher types at Westminster are questioning William Hague's bottle. The Welsh Secretary was not at Twickenham for the England-Wales match on Saturday. Was it that, as an Englishman — and Yorkshireman to boot — he would have felt queasy cheering for Wales? Or could he not bear the humiliation of gunning for the losing side?*

Feather retort

THOSE grappling with the estate of Brodrick Haldane, the delightful society photographer who died last week, are scratching their heads. What to do with his birds? For years, Haldane let canaries and finches fly free around his flat in India Street, Edinburgh, making for hazardous tea-parties.

Nigel Buchan-Watt is feeding the six finches and four canaries for now. "If they have names, then only Brodrick would know," he says. "Perhaps he made provision for them in his will, but we may well be looking for new owners."

Chill out

FORTUNATELY for South Africa's High Commissioner in London, his country's Transport Minister Mac Maharaj is a forgiving man. In London to speak to businessmen, he was greeted by locked doors when he arrived 20 minutes early for a function at South Africa House.

The Minister and other VIPs stood outside in sub-zero temperatures while someone tried to persuade conscientious security guards to open up. Last September, Bantu Holomisa, the deputy Tourism Minister, had a similar experience. Mr Maharaj, who was imprisoned on Robben Island with President Mandela, said that he and his friends had "thought about staging a demonstration out there, but someone opened up just in time".

Global reach

DOUGLAS HURD is soon to present a BBC documentary series on international relations, but his journalistic career is still burgeoning. The former Foreign Secretary has just signed up to write a column for the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

Have British editors shunned him in the mistaken belief that he is too gentlemanly to produce a lively column? *The Globe and Mail* is not considered a light read, but Hurd's column will surely be no match for that of the former American Secretary of State, James Baker, whose pronouncements are syndicated worldwide to an open-mouthed audience of insomniacs.

● *The Tory candidate for South East Staffordshire, Jimmy James, is aware of the pitfalls of constituency canvassing. At the 1992 election, he was fighting Dennis Skinner in Bolsover, unaware of the popularity of the northern comedian Jimmy James, who died in the 1960s. Approaching one house in Bolsover, he announced: "I'm Jimmy James." Bolsover man replied: "And I'm Donald Duck. Now clear off."*

P·H·S

STAND BY TAIWAN

The West should not turn a blind eye to Peking's provocation

If Russia were to threaten missile attacks on a neighbour, the West would act swiftly to impress on Moscow that military intimidation was intolerable. By contrast, there has been barely any response, even in the US, to equally menacing behaviour by China. Over the past year, Peking has sold missiles and nuclear technology to Iran, grabbed the Mischief Reef on the disputed Spratly Islands, laid claim to parts of Indonesian waters and harassed shipping in the South China Sea. Above all, it has set out to intimidate Taiwan, the prosperous and newly democratic island off China's southeast coast to which Chiang Kai-shek fled in 1949.

Western assumptions that China will not cross the line between psychological warfare and military action against Taiwan require urgent and sceptical review. Having tested the Pentagon's reflexes with a series of military exercises last year, powerful factions in the Chinese military appear to have concluded that America will not intervene.

The uneasy truce with Peking over Taiwan's future has ended since Taiwan's conversion to democracy, which will be complete with next month's direct presidential elections. China sees these elections as a symbolic step towards independence. Officially, Taiwan continues to hold that it is part of "one China", to be peacefully reunited one day with the mainland. But political liberty has given rein to a flourishing Taiwanese opposition which demands — with some historical justification — sovereign independence. President Lee Teng-hui, the almost certain winner, has sought international recognition short of independence for Taiwan, including membership, as a self-governing territory, of the UN and other international bodies. Elected, he will be strongly placed to press his case that reunification should wait until China has the same democratic, free-market system as Taiwan.

China has always maintained that it would invade Taiwan if it declared independence. Now faced by what it sees as an intolerable affront by a "renegade province", it has deliberately blurred that line. It justifies the use of force on pretexts so vague that they could cover almost any Chinese whim, "chaos" in Taiwan, or a decision that Taiwan's politicians were covertly bent on "splitting the motherland". In a speech last week Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, threatened to act against "foreign forces who attempt to interfere in China's reunification" — a clear "hands-off" signal to America. This month, China is reported to be planning massive military manoeuvres in Fujian province, which lies opposite Taiwan and has been declared a "war zone" by Peking. It has pointedly declined to deny reports that it will subject the island to daily missile attacks in the wake of next month's elections.

China could decide on a pre-emptive strike, forcing a rupture between China and America with global implications. The Pentagon consensus is that China is not yet capable of invading. But it could easily launch missile attacks on Taiwan's petrochemical industry, or mount a blockade of the Taiwan Straits by mining sealanes and sealing major ports. Taiwan has fuel and food reserves for only a few months.

China's neighbours would prefer to look the other way. Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew likened China's grab on the Spratlys last year to "a big dog lifting his leg". Although such leg-lifting is incompatible with China's obligations under international law, even America seems reluctant to say so firmly. It slipped the aircraft carrier *Nimitz* through the Taiwan Straits last December, but then diluted this already modest message by giving "inclement weather" as the reason.

Indecision is dangerous. China has a history of chaotic and violent changes of dynasty. Contenders for Deng Xiaoping's mantle are tempted to bang the patriotic drum. At such times the military, ardently courted by President Jiang Zemin, exercises enormous influence. Indecision would also be politically hazardous for President Clinton: the Taiwan lobby is one of the strongest in Congress. Before China goes further, he needs to leave Peking in no doubt that, whatever Taiwan's legal status, its right to be left in peace has his determined support. China will denounce any firmness as barbarian provocation; China is the provoker. The greatest risk lies in turning a blind eye.

MUST TRY HARDER

Woodhead paints a gloomy picture of teaching practice

Why are British school standards so low? *Not enough money*, shouts one side. *Too much local authority control*, shouts the other. Yesterday the still, small voice of Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, brought some calm reason to the debate. The problem lies with neither of the above, he argues, but with the educational philosophy and poor quality of many teachers.

Mr Woodhead, in his annual report, concedes that a small minority of schools could benefit from more books and equipment or better accommodation. But cash does not solve the problem of poor teaching in new schools. Nor is the structure and management of education necessarily the culprit. When the intelligence of pupils is taken into account, grant-maintained schools do no better than their local authority counterparts.

His findings make depressing reading. "Secondary schools often receive pupils with very low levels of literacy." Standards of numeracy "remain disappointing". A slowing *in pupil progress in the first two years of junior school* "has become a worryingly persistent feature of inspection findings" and "is strongly associated with a fall in the quality of teaching". Overall, standards of achievement need to be raised in about half of primary and two fifths of secondary schools.

Many of the problems could be addressed simply with a change of attitude among teachers and heads. Research conducted by Ofsted and other bodies provides a wealth of guidance about which teaching methods work best. The use of phonics (sounding out letters) in reading, more whole-class teaching, and the grouping of children by ability all lead to higher standards. Teachers who are ideologically opposed to these practices must open their minds if their pupils are not to suffer as a result.

A more specific problem, however, is the dip in standards in the second half of primary schooling. Here teachers often lack confidence in some subjects; this insecurity feeds through to the children. It is hardly surprising that the standard of teaching falls when teachers are expected to be equally competent in English, mathematics, geography, science, history, design, religious education and information technology — all at the level required by a ten-year-old. Private schools see the merit of moving to specialist teaching at the age of eight; state schools, as far as possible, could follow suit.

Mr Woodhead identifies about 15,000 teachers who can be classed as "poor". Some may be irredeemably so, and should not remain in their jobs. But others could benefit from further training in the subjects in which they are weak. Here, targeted extra spending would surely bear fruit. For the education of a child can be blighted, sometimes for good, by having a bad class teacher for a whole year of primary education.

The other way of raising standards in primary schools is to give parents more information. So it is welcome, if overdue, that Gillian Shephard has agreed to publish league tables of 11-year-old test results. At the moment, parents have little more than word of mouth to rely upon in choosing a primary school. From next year, they will have hard facts. Primary schools will then have all the incentives to improve that are already raising standards in the secondary sector.

HEROES OF SPORT

Australia must play up, play up and play the game

The current Australian cricket team may be good at winning cricket matches, but they confirmed yesterday that they lack their predecessors' understanding of the game's true spirit. In deciding to forfeit their match against Sri Lanka in the forthcoming World Cup — to be played in Colombo — they have acted neither with courage nor with diplomacy. Instead, they have upset the organisation of a complex tournament and handed a propaganda victory to the murderous Tamil rebels who hold Sri Lanka to ransom.

Cricket has never lacked squabbles and tiffs, but not since the Bodyline series has the game been such a fecund source of diplomatic friction. Consider the words of Lakshman Kadirgamar, the urbane Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, spoken yesterday to Gareth Evans, his Australian counterpart: "If any campaign is mounted by the Australian Government to persuade other countries not to come for their matches, it would be considered a hostile act in relations with the Government of Sri Lanka." The West Indies appear, on latest accounts, to have followed the Australian example: but there can be no doubt that the cricket administrators of the distant Caribbean islands would not even have contemplated such a step had not Australia set such a craven example.

Inevitably there will be pressure on Colombo to concede the political match. If two of the four games *cannot take place, the island* leg of the World Cup will of course be devalued by those who fail to meet their sporting commitments. Yet few love their cricket more passionately than do the Sri Lankans, and the security guarantees extended to all players by the Government there — "equivalent to that provided for visiting heads of state or government" — ought to calm the panic of all but the most fearful. If those arrangements would be good enough for the Queen or Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, they ought to be good enough for Shane Warne. There is an offer, also, to fly the players in and out from south India on the day of the match itself.

Since the World Cup does not begin until the 14th of this month, pressure will not abate to transfer matches from Sri Lanka to India or Pakistan. Ultimately, the decision to play or not to play — and where — depends on the organisers of the tournament, in close consultation with the host Governments. The Sri Lankan games may eventually be played elsewhere: but that would be a no-ball. A strife-torn island would be deprived of important days of sport and pleasure. The terrorists would have won a victory. Australia's cricketers, winners on the field, have lost an important game off it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Heseltine's bills advice under fire

From Mrs Barbara Roche, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green (Labour)

Sir, The criticism of the Deputy Prime Minister for boasting about not paying creditors on time ("Heseltine attacked for bill advice", report, February 5) is amply justified. John Gummer, however, cannot get away with saying that government "has set itself the target of becoming a best-practice client".

Answers to parliamentary questions I have recently received suggest that last year across Whitehall at least £232 million was paid late by government departments, and the worst offender — the Treasury — paid 25 per cent of its bills late.

Yet, like Mr Heseltine, ministers do not seem unduly concerned about this. Angela Knight, economic secretary to the Treasury, wrote to the Director-General of the CBI last month that her department's record for late payment of bills between the end of the 1994-95 and the start of the 1995-96 financial years was "not exactly the 'crime' it has been portrayed".

I have asked the Public Accounts Committee to investigate the scandal of late payment by government departments. Small firms are hit hardest by late payment, with some going to the wall and others being unable to invest and grow because of cashflow problems.

Small businesses are the backbone of the British economy and the Government should be supporting them, *not sanctioning kicking them in the teeth.*

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA ROCHE
(Shadow Small Business Minister),
House of Commons.
February 5.

From Mr A. L. Lunt

Sir, Mr Michael Heseltine's defence of the practice of delaying payments to suppliers will be taken as justification by those who pursue this policy, and will be abhorred by all who have a policy of on-time payment and expect the same in return.

Late payment is little short of stealing: by forcing a weaker company to borrow and pay interest, or to forego interest, it is certainly dishonest. Mr Heseltine's statement does no credit to him or to the party he and I support.

To restore its reputation the Government should reject his position unequivocally. Legislation for companies to have the right to receive interest when payments are delayed without justifiable cause is now overdue.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY L. LUNT,
40 Stile Hall Gardens, W4.
February 4.

Living languages

From Emeritus Professor Harold Carter

Sir, Mr Norman Berdichevsky (letter, January 27) refers to a figure of 550,000 speaking, reading or writing Welsh, derived from the Census and included in the book *A Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991* by Professor J. A. Aitchison and myself. He should have referred to "speaking, reading or writing Welsh in *Wales*".

In spite of consistent requests the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys refuses to ask the question as to ability in Welsh in the rest of the United Kingdom. There is no way, therefore, of knowing the total number of Welsh speakers.

The crudest estimate, by taking the *numbers in the rest of the UK born in* Wales and assuming that the proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales can be applied to it, would suggest that there are something like an additional 100,000 on top of those actually recorded in the Census.

The questions on Welsh, Gaelic and Irish should be asked in a standard format throughout the UK so that a proper enumeration of these languages is obtained.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD CARTER,
Tyle Bach, Maes Y Garn,
Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.
January 29.

Millennium events

From Dr Derek Nuttall

Sir, In considering suitable ways of celebrating the millennium (Simon Jenkins, January 27) would it not be appropriate to recognise in some permanent form the contribution made to civilisation during the last thousand years through the book and the printed word?

By the start of the 21st century, it is highly probable that new means of communication will have virtually superseded books, magazines and newspapers.

How about a "Museum of the Book" where the skills of calligraphers, illuminators, and bookbinders, along with the many ingenious machines and technical processes developed for letterpress, lithographic and intaglio printing, could be preserved for those who will follow us in the third millennium?

Yours sincerely,
D. NUTTALL,
Langdale,
Pulford Lane,
Dodleston, Chester, Cheshire.
January 29.

Fair shares for all in the broadcasting of major sports

From the Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League and others

Sir, Nobody should be surprised by the current frenzy surrounding the public debate about broadcasting and its future relationship with sport ("Right to view strikes back as pay to view", Sport, February 5).

The fact that an overwhelming majority of people care passionately about sport and their access to it, whether as participants or spectators, is a considerable comfort to all sports governing bodies.

In the past five years the cosy terrestrial duopoly has been broken and a true market established for sporting rights. The financial benefits flowing from this have enabled us to provide better stadia and better training facilities, *more help for the stars of tomorrow* and, crucially, a better prospect of higher standards of achievement on the field.

There has also been a boom in the exposure of sport through the media — not just for the traditional sports but also for those such as ice hockey or basketball which have had coverage unthinkable in the days of the cartel.

So who really has been the loser? Certainly not Sky, which has brought dedicated sports channels to Britain *for the first time and filled them overwhelmingly with quality sports action*, much of it previously unavailable to the domestic audience.

As for the terrestrial channels, why the shrieks of anguish when, within the past year, long-term contracts have been signed with the BBC or ITV for FA Cup and England football coverage, Formula One motor racing, and Wimbledon lawn tennis — not to mention the Olympic Games?

It is in nobody's interest that sport should be available merely to two men and a dog, at whatever price to the broadcasters. Let the politicians debate the issue by all means. But let them also be certain that they really know better than sport itself what is best for the future.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE LINDSAY
(Chairman, Major Spectator Sports Division, CCPR; Chief Executive, *Rugby Football League*),
MICHAEL BONALLACK
(Secretary, Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews),
TONY HALLETT
(Secretary, Rugby Football Union),
GRAHAM KELLY
(Chief Executive, The Football Association),
IAN PEACOCK
(Executive Director, Lawn Tennis Association),
ALAN SMITH
(Chief Executive, Test & Country Cricket Board),
The Central Council of Physical Recreation,
Francis House, Francis Street, SW1.
February 5.

From Mr Steven Barnett

Sir, The House of Lords has the opportunity tomorrow to vote on a piece of legislation which will, in my view, instantly endear it to the great majority of voters. A proposed amendment to the Broadcasting Bill reinstates the principle of "listed" sporting events which I believe, as part of our national heritage, should be freely available to all on terrestrial television.

Such an amendment will instantly reassure the 80 per cent of households who do not have satellite or cable television that they will continue to get live coverage of the country's major sporting events for the cost of a licence fee. The argument that such a provision will prevent sporting bodies from realising the full market potential for their sports no longer holds water; the fierce competition between the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and from next year Channel 5, will ensure that a proper market for sports rights is preserved.

It is important that their Lordships are not distracted by the Government's "consultation" paper on TV sport (report, February 3). Virginia Bottomley's stated intention to "focus the debate" is a disingenuous ploy — heavily dependent on figures and arguments from BSkyB — to deflect what appears to be a likely government defeat.

There is no doubt about the weight of popular opinion, and public fears have been fuelled by The News Corporation's recent bid for the Olympic Games. If the House of Lords has the courage to follow its instincts on this issue, it will earn the thanks of a very grateful viewing public.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN BARNETT
(Author, *Games and Sets: the changing face of sport on television*),
University of Westminster,
School of Communication,
Watford Road,
Northwick Park, Harrow, Middlesex.
February 4.

Self-sufficient living

From Mr P. F. de Cuyper

Sir, Your leading feature in the Weekend section of January 27, "This house and car cost nothing to run", has much to commend it in raising the profile of energy self-sufficiency and especially in proving that such designs can work in practice. It suggests that self-sufficiency can be achieved at a fairly modest incremental capital cost of 25 per cent — an extra £40,000 *in addition to a traditional cost of* £160,000.

If this was correct, then we should all be building to the standards in Dr Susan Roaf's house as the payback period of the additional investment would be counted in years rather than decades.

My own limited experience of building a self-sufficient dwelling, now in course of construction, without recourse to any fossil fuels, would suggest an incremental cost per square foot in the order of 60 to 75 per cent — primarily due to converting theoretical design ideas into engineering reality. This is compounded when executing an untested project within planning constraints on a fixed cost basis.

Moreover, as your article points out, the design has to rely on more *than one energy source to top up any* shortfall in the main supply — in Dr Roaf's case, solar topped up with a condensing boiler burning fossil fuel. I have also looked at solar as a main source, but topped up with a small wind-powered generator to counter the loss of efficiency of solar energy in winter, when loads are invariably increased.

Our European neighbours buy surplus energy from domestic renewable sources at the price they charge rather than at a fraction of their cheapest rate, as is the case in the UK. The regional electricity companies may wish to take note in view of last week's threat of a national electricity shortfall.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. de CUYPER,
2a Shirleys, Lewes Road,
Ditchling, East Sussex.
February 5.

From Mr M. A. Challoner

Sir, I admire Dr Roaf's science and enthusiasm in having constructed 26 Blandford Avenue. Unfortunately I cannot afford to do the same.

However, I take some comfort from the fact that, by her spending of an extra £40,000 on the building costs, the financial gain is probably nil. The interest on this amount ought to produce at least £2,400 per annum, and that should be sufficient to pay for the expected heating costs in a similar but standard house, together with the petrol for up to 12,000 miles a year.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village, Bodelwyddan, Clwyd.
January 28.

From Dr T. D. Andrews

Sir, What is the annual cost of replacement batteries for Dr Roaf's three-seater Kewet El-Jet electric car? Such batteries do not last forever.

Granted there is satisfaction in knowing that the power used by Dr Roaf for her house and car is not the product of any polluting process (excluding that caused during the manufacture of the solar panels and the car batteries); but it is most certainly not *free*.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. ANDREWS,
Clapper Farm House,
East Bergholt,
Colchester, Essex.
February 2.

EU and defence

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, The French Defence Minister, Charles Millon, is quoted ("French policy boost for British Aerospace", January 25) as saying that "we think it better to create a European arms industry, thus alliances between companies, thus common programmes, thus a European weapons agency".

These sentiments were echoed in a European Commission communication launched the same week by Commissioner Bangemann proposing that EU rules on state aid, competition and the award of public contracts should apply to the defence industry. This would involve harmonising import duties and tackling distortions due to differences between national export control policies.

In the debate on the Royal Navy on February 1 the Minister for Defence Procurement, James Arbuthnot, MP, stated that "collaboration especially in Europe will be increasingly important in the future. That is why we are pursuing the concept of a European armaments agency and why we wish to participate in the Franco-German armaments structure that came into being at the start of 1996" (*Hansard*, Vol 270, No 41, cols 1141-2).

May I inject a note of caution? First, weapons procurement is best achieved by commercially-driven industrial arrangements, not by the superimposition of bureaucratic European agencies.

Second, any policy which impaired the Armed Forces' ability to buy the most cost-effective equipment from any appropriate source must reduce their operational effectiveness. Collaboration with American manufacturers can be just as fruitful as that with European companies.

Finally the European Union has an ambition to arrogate to itself a defence role. The means envisaged are through EU control of arms development, production and procurement. However, defence rightly remains the prerogative of sovereign states whose defence budgets are voted by national parliaments. Likewise, export licensing of armaments should remain the responsibility of the British Government answerable to the British Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
House of Commons.
February 2.

Here today . . .

From Dr William Alcock

Sir, Mr Winston Graham (letter, February 2) wonders why the snow which fell in his area on January 26 had almost gone within three days although the ambient temperature during the period never rose above the freezing *point of water (32F)*.

Certain substances have the property of changing, in certain circumstances, from the solid to the vapour state without first melting: water in the form of ice is one, iodine in crystal form is another.

The condition is known as sublimation. Mr Graham's snow vaporised.

Yours faithfully,
W. ALCOCK,
46 Park Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire.
February 2.

S for serendipity

From Mrs Anne Tayler

Sir, I have been sent *The Complete Guide to What's on Talking Tapes* and I would like to share parts of it with you.

Serendipity, I think, is the word that best describes the pleasure to be found in searching its pages for your favourite writer or title. Your own Alan Coren is listed under A for Alan, and Eliot under TS. Having grasped this the Sherlock Holmes fan will flick the pages back to A for Arthur Conan Doyle, and be foiled, for Conan Doyle is under S for Sir Arthur.

Byron, naturally, is under L for Lord. *Hamlet* and *Measure for Measure* appear, though, under S for Shakespeare and not W for William: never mind, the missing William turns up for *The Canterbury Tales* under — yes, William Chaucer. I have looked in vain for *Lines Written upon Westminster Bridge* under G for Geoffrey Wordsworth.

One of my favourites is *A Tale of Two Cities* in the S (for Shakespeare) section.

Having completed one's order for *Talking Tapes*, it is reassuring to know that it will be dealt with by "experienced, knowledgeable telephone operators". Happy listening!

Yours faithfully,
ANNE TAYLER,
8 North Street,
Nazeing, nr Waltham Abbey, Essex.
February 1.

From Mr M. R. Adams

Sir, May I suggest a millennium scholarship trust to last into the conceivable future. This would avoid wasteful expenditure on grotesque buildings, controversial celebrations or sculptural and artistic abominations.

Each university in the United Kingdom and Ireland should devise a number of studies in important and imaginative areas. The awards should be for UK and Ireland nationals only and the studies should take place at the university which makes the award.

Since Christ is the cause of the mil*lennium but not of conflict between* Christian denominations, no studies should upset Christian beliefs. Religion should not be a subject for any of the studies nor should the media or sport, and medicine should account for no more than a small element.

The trust should be set up immediately with its members being chosen in such a way that it will be guaranteed from its conception to be an organisation of great importance and of excellence.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
The Willows,
Dulcote, Wells, Somerset.
February 2.

From Mr Edward Armitage

Sir, Instead of a national monument or enterprise, or even in addition to a national effort to mark the millennium, might I suggest that each *county* be encouraged to embark on a project that would display that county's features and character.

One can already envisage a most exhilarating and educational holiday tour of all the county exhibits — a grand tour of Britain, in fact, rivalling in esteem the previous exhibitions of 50 and 100 years ago and, one would hope, of a more permanent nature.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD ARMITAGE,
11 Cambridge Road,
Ely, Cambridge.
January 31.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

هكذا في الإعلان

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 4: Mr Frederick Waite was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 5: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Michael Wawn upon relinquishing his appointment as Commandant, School of Aviation, and Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Thursby upon assuming the appointment. His Royal Highness this afternoon presented the Laurent-Perrier Champagne Award for Wild Game Conservation at Apsley House, London W1.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, later held a meeting of the Institute's Council at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness afterwards received the Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury).

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit the Design of the Times exhibition and attend a centenary dinner at the Royal College of Art at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra will visit the Cassel Hospital, 1 Ham Common, Richmond, at 11.30.

The Duke of Kent will attend a reception for the Transnet Libertas Choir of South Africa, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, at Marlborough House at 6.50.

The Right Hon Viscount Watkinson, PC, CH

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Harold, Viscount Watkinson, of Woking, will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Wednesday, April 24. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 24, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on April 15.

Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG, will be held in the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel at 2.30pm on Friday, March 1, 1996. Admission is by ticket only. Please apply to The Dover House, Poling, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9PX, by February 12, 1996.

Birthdays today

Today is the 44th anniversary of the accession of The Queen.

Rabbi Lionel Blue, author and broadcaster, 66; Mr Nicholas Brett, Editor, *Radio Times*, 46; Sir Denys Buckley, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 90; Mr Peter Cadbury, company chairman, 78; Mr Leslie Crowther, comedian and actor, 63; Mr Tim Ewart, broadcaster, 47; Mr John Flemming, Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 55; Professor Roger Greenhalgh, vascular surgeon, 55; Professor J.E.C. Hill, former Master, Balliol College, Oxford, 84; Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, actress, 53; Mr Patrick MacNee, actor, 74; Mr George Mudie, MP, 51; Mr Denis Norden, scriptwriter and broadcaster, 74; Mr Manuel Orantes, tennis player, 47; Mr Ronald Reagan, former American President, 85; Lord Roskill, 85; Mr Brian Simpson, MEP, 43; Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, comedian, 56; Mr Fred Trueman, cricketer, 65; Mr Keith Waterhouse, writer, 67; Mr Kevin Whately, actor, 45.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Dr Alan Sked was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Miss Hazel Ellis presided.

Legal appointment

Mr Justice Butterfield to be a judge of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.



Norman Wisdom and Ernie Wise arriving yesterday for the memorial service for Billy Marsh, theatrical agent

Memorial service for Billy Marsh

A memorial service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Mr Billy Marsh, theatrical agent, was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated. Mr Jim Moir, Mr Bill Cotton, Mr Rolf Harris and Mr Michael Grade paid tribute.

Mr Norman Wisdom sang his own work *Don't Laugh at Me 'Cos I'm a Fool*. Miss Jacqui Scott sang Oscar Hammerstein II's and Jerome Kern's *Bill* and Ira and George Gershwin's *Someone to Watch Over Me*. Miss Lisa Hull sang *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again* with words by Charles Hart and Richard Stilgoe and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Mr Stephen Hill sang Ned Washington's and Leigh Harline's *When You Wish Upon a Star*. The choir also paid musical tribute. Among others present were:

Mrs T Port (sister), Mrs Joy Abbott, Mr John Port, Miss Linda Port; Lord and Lady Grade, Lady Delfont, Dame Shirley Oxenbury.

Mr Jim Kennedy and Mrs Jan Kennedy, Mr and Mrs Ernie Wise, Mrs Bill Cotton, Mrs Joan Morecambe, Mr Garry Morecambe, Mrs Tracey Dawson, Ms Mo Moreland, Mr Paul Raymond, Mr Tony Hatch and Miss Jackie Trent, Mr and Mrs Johnnie Mans, Miss Joan Regan, Mr John Inman, Mr Burt Rhodes, Mr Chubby Oates, Mr Michael Aspel, Mr David Jacobs, Mr Nicholas Parsons, Mr Richard Johnston, Mr John K Cooper, Mr David Lingwood, Mr Robert de Winter, Mr and Mrs Alvin Stardust, Mr Robin Cousins, Miss Anita Harris, Mr Mike Yarwood, Mr and Mrs Rolf Harris, Miss Bindi Harris, Mr Ronnie Corbett, Mr Don Black, Mr and Mrs Paul Nicholas, Mr Brian Tesler, Mrs Penny Grade, Mr Harold Fielding, Mr and Mrs Al Heath, Mr and Mrs Richard Mills, Mr Barry Stead, Mr Jed Leventhal, Mr and Mrs D Thurlow, Mr and Mrs Gerry Kunz, Mrs Zara Land, Mr Geoffrey Irvine, Mr and Mrs Chris Corcoran, Mr Vaughan Kennedy, Mr Garry Brown and Miss Lorna Dallas, Mr Peter Howarth, Mr Eddie Waters, Mr David Taylor, Mr Paul Gymsell, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Earle, Mr David Graham.

Mr and Mrs Paul Han, Mr Kenny Clayton, Mr and Mrs Phillip Jones, Mrs T Cavanagh, Mr and Mrs David Lewin, Miss Yvonne Littlewood, Mr Les Cullen, Mrs Susan Shaper, Mrs Eileen Milson, Mr Kenneth Jones, Miss Sheila Holt, Miss Rosemary Garrett, Ms Marcia Stanton, Mr Richard Johnson, Mrs W Ryder, Mrs Pamela Dutton, Mr John Avery, Mrs Gwyneth Spurling, Mr Dave Freeman, Mr and Mrs Brook Land, Mr Jay Vickers, Mr Jack Douglas, Mr Robert Israel, Mr Henry Gagan, Mr Alistair MacMillan, Mr Tony Harrison, Mr Andrew Michaelides, Ms Nina Ylanni.

Mr John Adrian, Mr Philip Hindin, Mr Len Lowe, Mr Ronnie Hazlehurst, Mr Joe Church, Mr William Foux, Mr Mike Craig, Mr Peter Elliott, and Mr George Elrick (Grand Order of Water Rats); Mr Charles Vance (Theatres Advisory Council), Mr Jarvis Astaire (Variety Club of Great Britain), Mr John Bishop, Ms Sally Fincher and Mr Richard Holloway (Carlton TV), Mr S Vaunce (*The Stage*), Mr Baz Bamigboye (*Daily Mail*), Mr Alex Armitage and Mr Charles Armitage (Noel Gay Organisation), Mr Cyril W Wilds (British Music Hall Society), Mr Sanderman Allen and Mr and Mrs Peter Holden (Guinea Pig Club), the Rev Guy Bennett (chaplain, London Palladium).



Another celebrity at the service, Ronnie Corbett

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Christopher Marlowe, dramatist, Canterbury, 1564; Queen Anne reigned 1702-14, St James's Palace, London, 1665; Sir Henry Irving, actor, Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, 1838; Frederic William Myers, poet and co-founder of the Society of Psychical Research, Keswick, 1843; George (Babe) Ruth, baseball champion, Baltimore, Maryland, 1895; Ramon Novarro, silent film actor, Durango, Mexico, 1899; Bob Marley, singer and songwriter, St Ann's, Jamaica, 1945.

DEATHS: King Charles II reigned 1660-85, London, 1685; Lancelot (Capability) Brown, landscape gardener, 1783; Joseph Priestley, Presbyterian minister, chemist, discoverer of oxygen, Northumberland, Pennsylvania, 1804; Ellen Wilkinson, trades unionist and politician, London, 1947; King George VI reigned 1936-52, Sandringham, Norfolk, 1952; Marghanita Laski, writer, London, 1988.

King James II acceded to the Throne, 1685.

Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the Throne, 1952.

Seven members of the Manchester United football team were among those killed in an air crash at Munich, 1958.

France and Britain agreed on the building of a Channel tunnel, 1964.

Dinners

Chatham Dining Club
The Earl of Limerick presided at a dinner of the Chatham Dining Club held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr David Rowland was the principal guest.

The Bankers Club
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was present at the annual dinner of The Bankers Club held last night at Guildhall. Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, president, was in the chair. M Jacques de Larosière, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was the principal speaker.

The Athenaeum
Professor Peter Landsberg was the principal speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Professor Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, was in the chair.

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Wynford Evans, and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor G. Tatham, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff last night in honour of Mr Ian Plenderleith, Executive Director of the Bank of England. Mr Nigel Falls, Agent of the Bank of England, Bristol, presided.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Roderick Jones, Selection Secretary, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster: to be Vicar, St Mary the Virgin, Horsell (Guildford).

The Rev David Kennedy, Tutor at The Queen's College, Birmingham: to be Rector, Haughton Le Skerne (Durham).

The Rev Jonathan Lawson, Assistant Curate, Sedgefield: to be Assistant Curate, Usworth Team Ministry (Durham).

The Rev Kevin McGarahan, Team Vicar, Madeley Team Ministry (Hereford): to be a Royal Army Chaplain.

The Rev Mark Nicholls, Vicar, St Andrew, Wigan: to be Vicar, St Margaret, Bulawayo, diocese Matabeleland.

The Rev Stephen Oliver, Rector, Leeds City Team Ministry (Ripon): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

The Rev Christine Owen, Chaplain to London University and Hon Curate, St Marylebone w Holy Trinity (London): to be Precentor and Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral (Worcester).

The Rev Bob Redrup, Vicar, Kea (Truro): to be also an Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.

Luncheons

HM Government
Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday in Admiralty House by the Ministry of Defence in honour of Admiral Antonio Carlos Fuzeta da Ponte, Chief of Defence General Staff, Portugal.

Coal Industry Society
Mr John Battle, MP, was the principal guest and speaker at a luncheon of the Coal Industry Society held yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr C.E. Sully presided. Mr D.R.T. Waring, president, also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr A.J. Cairns and Miss S.E. Scarlett
The engagement is announced between Alistair Cairns, PhD, eldest son of the late Mr Ian Cairns and of Mrs Cairns, of Cupar, Fife, and Sarah, daughter of the late Hon John Scarlett, CBE, and of Mrs Scarlett, of Wadhurst, Sussex.

The Rev D.A. McClay and Miss H.M. Saunders
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roland McClay, of Laghey, Co Donegal, and Hilary, daughter of the Rev Teddy and Mrs Saunders, of Charleywood, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.B. McHaffie and Miss A.J. Bradford
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr Michael McHaffie, of West Horsley, Surrey, and the late Mrs Joan McHaffie, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bradford, of Norwich.

Mr H.M.C. Morley and Miss K.S. Balfour
The engagement is announced between Harry, elder son of Mr David Morley, of Newmarket, Suffolk, and Mrs Tim Eastwood, of Moreton Pinkney, Northamptonshire, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Balfour, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr J.C. Stratford and Miss F.L.M. de la Haye
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Stratford, of Jersey, Channel Islands, and Heidi, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs L. de la Haye, of Jersey, Channel Islands.

Mr J.A.C. Walter and Miss C.M. Duncan
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Antony Walter, of Jimena de la Frontera, Spain, and Celia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Duncan, of Emsworth, Hampshire, formerly of Feckenham, Worcestershire.

University news

Oxford
The Eldon Law scholarship for 1996 has been awarded to Andrew Richard Thomas, Balliol College.

Merton College
To Postmasterships: J E Ratzer, formerly of Eton College; R.L. Behr, formerly of the City of London School.
To an Exhibition: Miss E.J.C. Brown, formerly of Westminster School.

Surrey
Recent grants include:

Prof B Sealy, Prof P.L.F Hemment, Prof K G. Stephens, Dr R P Webb: £3,741,929 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "The University of Surrey Ion Beam Facility for Microelectronics".

Prof E G Muller-Steinhagen: £225,374 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "Development of low-fouling heat exchanger surfaces".

Prof M Gradzil: £211,042 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (Realising our Potential Award) for "Mitigation of attrition in fluid catalytic cracking units".

Prof B G Evans, Mr S P W Jones: £306,000 from the European Commission for "THESEUS (Terminal at high speed for European stock exchange users)".

Prof J V Kittler, Dr M Bober: £202,200 from the European Commission for "Scalable architectures with hardware extensions for low bitrate variable bandwidth realtime video communication - Scalar".

Dr M J Carter: £169,564 from the Medical Research Council for "Intracellular aspects of astrovirus infection: Non-structural proteins and determination of host cell range".

Dr J Illingworth, Dr A J Stoddart, Mr T Windeatt: £161,848 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "ASPMIC — Automatic Solder Paste Monitoring, Inspection and Control".

Dr J W Dale, Dr L J Eales, Dr J McFadden: £152,387 from the Medical Research Council for "Gene replacement in Mycobacterium tuberculosis".

Prof B G Evans, Mr R Tafazolli: £150,480 from the European Commission for "SECOMS-Satellite EHF communications for mobile multimedia services".

Dr J Illingworth, Prof J V Kittler: £148,699 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "Hidden Markov models for the recognition of handwritten words".

Dr P R Voke, Dr P E Hancock: £148,281 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "Large-eddy simulation of unsteady flow over turbo-machinery blades".

Dr J N Hay: £139,571 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for "Control of synthesis of acrylic copolymers in supercritical carbon dioxide".

Prof I P Castro, Dr A G Robins: £135,000 from Natural Environmental Research Council for "The Environmental Flow Research Centre".

Dr M J Carter: £129,456 from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for "Stable attenuation of DHV-1 for vaccine purposes".

Prof J E Castle: £123,475 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (Realising our Potential Award) for "Adsorption and stability of corrosion inhibitors on duplex steels: In-situ investigation by chemical force".

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But the poor will not always be unheeded, nor the hope of the destitute be always vain. Psalm 9 : 18 (REB)

BIRTHS

ADAMSON - On Sunday 4th February, to Imogen (née Milton) and James, a son, Robert Douglas.

BAKER - On 28th December 1995 at Warwick, to Elizabeth (née West) and Graham, a daughter, Lucinda Madeleine Clare, a sister for Charles, Olivia, William and Rhona.

BEAUMONT - On 3rd February 1996, to Michèle and Marc, a beautiful son, Anthony Albert.

BENTLEY - On 1st February, to Andrea (née Moore) and Giles, a son, Edward John George, a brother for Alexandra.

BOGERT - On January 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Kaye and Ross, a beautiful baby boy, Elliott Selwyn.

BOLTON - On February 1st, to Hazel and Robert, a son, Edward.

BRITT - On 4th February, to Margaret and Stephen, a son, Henry (Harry) Edward, a brother for Sarah.

BRODALA - On February 2nd 1996, at High Wycombe, to David and Amanda (née Erickson), a beautiful daughter, Kathleen Millica Jane, a pirate playmate and sister for Josef.

CAUNTER - On 24th January, to Georgia and Clive, a daughter, Abigail Charlotte Rose, a sister for Alicia.

CHAPMAN - On February 1st, to Cressida (née Fitch) and Huw, a son, William Albert Morris, a brother for Freddie and Dorothy.

DEALTRY - On 1st February, to Giles and Nicola (née Turnbull), a son, Felix Oliver.

DEVERELL - On January 22nd, to Susanna and John, a daughter, Flora Sophia, a sister for Conrad and Georgina.

ELWES - On 3rd February, to Georgina (née Rashbot) and Benedict, a son, Jasper Simon.

FLETT - On January 30th at Homerton Hospital, to Emma-Rose (née Barber) and Simon, a son, Benedict Cameron MacDonald.

GIBSON - On February 1st, to Melanie and Piers, a daughter, Martha Camilla, a sister for Lucy, Harry and Theo.

HOGHTON - On January 31st 1996, to Susanna (née Gillibrand) and Bruce, a son, Louis Alexander, a brother for Oliver.

JONES - On January 13th at the Royal Free Hospital, to Debbie (née Beckerman) and Keith, a daughter, Natasha Louise, a sister for Nicholas.

KERRY - On January 15th, to Pippa (née Ward) and Patrick, a son, William James.

BIRTHS

KIBBLE - On 3rd February at "The Towers", to Deborah and Edward, a beautiful son, Edward Alexander Naunton, 8lbs 8oz.

PARRY - On 1st February, to Susan and Alexander, a beautiful daughter, Adèle Alexandra.

SAINTY - On February 1st, to Emma (née Musgrave) and Julian, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for James and Alexander.

VESTEY - On 5th February 1996, at St. Germain-en-Laye, France, to Victoria (née Waddell) and Robin, a daughter, Rose Elizabeth Jean, a sister for Georgina.

WASKELY - On January 30th, to Sophie (née Marsham) and Andrew, a daughter, Saskia Dorothy.

DEATHS

ADAMSON - Edward, passed away peacefully at his home on 3rd February aged 84. Private funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations please to The Adamson Collection Charity, 16 Hollywood Road, London SW10 9HY. A Memorial Service will be announced later. Grievously missed by his family and his friend John.

ALEXANDER - Peacefully at home on 1st February, in his 92nd year. Commander H.C.R. (Harry) Alexander, RN (rtd), beloved husband of Mary, father of Colin and Simon, grandfather of Madeleine, great-grandfather, uncle, great-uncle and stepfather. Funeral on Friday 9th February, Mortlake Crematorium at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only, to Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, SW1. Donations to the Royal Naval Benevolent Society, 1 Fleet Street, EC4.

BASKERVILLE - L.E. Dane suddenly at home on February 3rd 1996 aged 74. Requiem Mass to take place on Monday 12th February at 12.30 pm at St Augustine R.C. Church, High Wycombe. No flowers. Donations to Furnishing Trades Benevolent Association. All enquiries tel: (01494) 529195.

BELLVILLE - Nancy Catherine Bellville, M.B.E., J.P., peacefully at home on 3rd February. Beloved wife of the late Miles Bellville, M.C., M.B.E., D.L., loving mother of Richard, Jane and Sue, grandmother of Rebecca, William, Tristan and Sophie. Funeral strictly private. Service of Thanksgiving on Saturday 2nd March at 2.15 pm at St James's Church, Tedstone Delamere, Bromyard, Herefordshire.

DEATHS

BENNETT - Charles John Lyell OBE, MC, suddenly in Cyprus on 2nd February, dear brother of Ann, former employee Standard Chartered Bank, also of Devizes, Wilts. Funeral in Cyprus. Donations if desired to RSPB.

BRUTON - Clive Joseph aged 54, dearly loved husband of Ann, father of Rachel, Tim, Abi and Laura and proud grandfather of Jake. Funeral 1.30 pm Friday 9th February at Robin Hood Crematorium, Shirley. No flowers. Donations to The Mental Health Foundation, 37 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8JU.

CHARLES - Victor Gustave on January 30th in London. Loved son of the late Victor and Elizabeth, dearly loved brother of Marion, adored uncle of Maurice and Diane, fondly loved mate of Jenny, great-uncle of Sheryl, Lynda, Mark, Kim and Shelley, great-great-uncle of Caitlin, Timothy and Scottie (all of New Zealand). A dapper character of the world of London theatre, a gentleman - a lovely man. Sadly missed. Funeral notice later.

CLINTON - David Cecil (Peter), beloved husband of Odette, suddenly on 3rd February 1996. Funeral Service at Croydon Crematorium on Wednesday 14th February 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers, all cheques payable to Mayday Hospital Heartbeat Appeal, c/o Rowland Bros., 44 High Street, Purley, CR8 2AA or tel: (0181) 660-8847.

CROSS - On February 4th, Alexander G., M.D., F.R.C.S., peacefully in St Teresa's Home, Wimbledon. Devoted husband of Eileen, father of Diana, father-in-law of Gerald and grandfather of Alison and John. Funeral at Christchurch, Copse Hill, Wimbledon, 11 am Thursday 8th February 1996 followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to The Fight for Sight, c/o Mears and Cotterill, 161 Merton Road, London SW18 5EQ.

DUNSTAN - Jean Campbell (née Robson) aged 84, on February 3rd at home after a short illness. Very dear wife of the late Sydney, much loved and loving mother of Linda and Heather and grandmother of Caroline and Victoria. Funeral Service on Monday 12th February at 1.45 pm at Putney Vale Crematorium, Stag Lane, Putney SW15. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary Magdalen Church, Trinity Road, SW18 on Monday 12th February at 3 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, Clapham, SW4. Enquiries and donations to Mears & Cotterill, 169 Merton Road, London SW18 5EF. Tel (0181) 874-7698.

DEATHS

EARL - On February 2nd, in her 98th year, Honor, widow of Sebastian Earl, daughter of the late Viscount and Lady Maugham, mother of Stephen and of the late Julian, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother. No flowers. But donations in memory to the National Youth Orchestra, Causeway House, Lodge Causeway, Bristol BS16 3HD.

ELLIOT - Pamela Violet peacefully at home on Saturday 3rd February 1996, widow of Hubert, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral private. Please no flowers. Date of Thanksgiving Service to be announced later.

FITZPATRICK - John, on February 1st 1996, peacefully in Worthing aged 86. A distinguished services career included the Irish Guards, the Palestine Police and the 8th Army, also served in Malaya and with the Foreign Office. Beloved husband of Jane who died in 1993 and a special individual, much loved by his family and friends. Service at Our Lady of England Priory in Storrington, Sussex on Wednesday 7th February 11.15 am followed by private cremation. Flowers and enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, 10 Station Parade, Tarring Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 4BZ. Tel: (01903) 248900.

FREUDENBERG - Elisabeth (née Labowsky) at Pennant Nursing Home, Somerset, wife of the late Konrad Freudenberg, mother of Elizabeth, Matthew, Anna and Veronica. Service at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Thursday 8th February at 2.30 pm. Donations if desired to Oxfam. Enquiries to E. White & Son Ltd., Funeral Directors, Taunton. Tel: (01823) 272183.

HALDANE - On 3rd February 1996 peacefully in Edinburgh, Brodrick Vernon Chinnery, younger brother of the late Alexander Chinnery Haldane of Gleneagles. Funeral Service in St Michael and All Saints Church, Brougham Place, Edinburgh, on Friday, 9th February at 2 pm, thereafter private. Family flowers only. There will be no subsequent memorial service.

HARDINGE - Mervyn of The Rangoon Gazette and Editor of The Calcutta Statesman, died 2nd February 1996 in Perth, Australia, aged 85 years.

DEATHS

KENYON - du Mello Kenyon, Major John, M.B.E., of Cheltenham, formerly of Newport, Pembrokshire, died at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital aged 78 on January 31st 1996 after a short illness. Much loved husband of the late Marian Kenyon, father of Liz, Jennie and Chris, grandfather of Charlie, Tim, Camilla, Hannah, Lucy, Emma, Tom and Georgina. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Newport, Pembrokshire on Friday February 9th at 2.30 pm.

LAW - Cecilia (née Dowell) aged 85, of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, mother of Sally, grandmother of Simon and Martin. Died 1st February 1996 in Barnes Hospital. Cremation Putney Vale Crematorium Friday February 9th at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request. Donations to Save the Children Fund c/o Ashton Mathies (0181) 788-1790.

MAIN - Bernard William of Bury St Edmunds, died peacefully after a short illness on 4th February 1996, aged 89.

MALLESON - Nancy Marion (née Graham). On 1st February 1996 at Fairford, peacefully. Beloved wife of the late Bernard Ken Malleson MC and dearest mother of Una, Ottilie and John, and a loved grandmother and great-grandmother to all her family. Funeral at Fairford Parish Church at 9.30 am on Monday 12th February, followed by cremation. Donations to The Friends of Fairford Hospital.

MANICKASSAMY - Nambi, 2nd year student Somerville College, Oxford, most cherished son of Dr. and Mrs Manickasamy, dearest brother of Kumari and Amudha of Newlands Spring, Chelmsford, Essex. Ceremony will be held at family residence on Monday 12th February. For full details contact Chelmsford Star Co-operative Funeral Service, tel: (01245) 353978.

MARTIN - On 2nd February, Elizabeth Jane aged 32 years. Much loved daughter of Richard and the late Joanna Martin and stepdaughter of Sue Martin; sister to Judith, Jeremy, Nigel and Helen. Funeral Church of Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway, Tuesday 13th February at 12 noon followed by cremation for family. No flowers please. Donations if desired to "The British Kidney Patient Association", Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ.

MORRISON - Lady Rosemary (Hannah Mary), formerly de Groot née Topping, aged 82 in Oxford after a short illness, 4th February 1996. Widow of Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB, and of Emile Hu de Groot and dearly loved mother of Joanna and Lucy.

DEATHS

MULLENS - On 3rd February 1996 peacefully at Amesbury Abbey Nursing Home in her 94th year, Gwendoline Joan, dearly loved and loving wife of the late Brigadier Guy Mullens, mother of Carolyn and Tony, and dear grandmother and great-grandmother. Private family cremation will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Amesbury Parish Church on Friday 9th February at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations to Andover Branch SSAFA or Andover Nursing Division St John Ambulance would be much appreciated.

NAIPAUL - Patricia Ann (Lady Naipaul), wife of V.S. Naipaul. Born Gloucester 31st July 1932 died at Salterton, Wiltshire, 3rd February 1996 after a long and wasting illness. Funeral at Salisbury Crematorium Thursday 8th February at 9.40 am.

NEILSON - Christopher Bernard Vere, F.I.E.E., F.I.Mech.E., F.R.Ae.S., on 1st February 1996 aged 92 years, peacefully after a short illness. Much loved by his family and many friends of all ages. Funeral Service at Cheltenham Crematorium on Thursday 8th February at 11.30 am. Enquiries to Philip Ford & Son Funeral Directors, Drinton House, Stroud (01453 765692).

NOAKES - Rosemary Joan, peacefully after a long illness borne with great courage on February 5th. Dearly beloved wife of Simon and mother of Thomas, Oliver and Jonathan. Funeral Service at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, SW19 at 12 noon on Friday February 9th, followed by cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium, SW15. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Saint Raphaels Hospice. Enquiries and donations to Mears & Cotterill, 169 Merton Road, Wandsworth, SW18 5EF. Tel: (0181) 874-7698.

REID - After a short illness Anne died peacefully on 2nd February. She was greatly loved by family and friends, and will be missed by so many who knew her. Anne was the wife of Mick, mother to Nat and Emma and the daughter of Eileen and Godfrey Taylor and the loving sister of Sue, Jane and Paul. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Wargrave, Berkshire on Wednesday 7th February at 12 noon. Flowers welcome (Tomalin & Son, Henley-on-Thames) or donations to the Robert Piggott CE Infant School (Beverley Gardens, Wargrave, Berks., RG10 8ED) where Anne taught for many years.

DEATHS

RISOE - Vilhelm Schjelderup (Bill), suddenly at home, his wife and daughter with him, on Friday 2nd February 1996 in his 84th year. Beloved husband of Rosa, and dearly loved father of Paul and Susan, father-in-law of Clare and grandfather of Theo, Eleanor and Simon. Private funeral to be arranged. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help".

ROSS - On February 5th 1996, peacefully in hospital, Andrew Cairns, aged almost 84. Darling husband of Cécile, father of the late Colin and much loved by Carole and Norman, Charlotte and Lucy. Funeral Service on February 12th at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only and no letters please, but donations if desired to Woking Community Hospital c/o G. Boutell & Son, 50 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7QL. Tel: (01932) 348057 for enquiries.

SNAITH - Peacefully in his sleep on February 4th aged 86 years, Linton Snaith (Gynaecologist) of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. Dear husband of the late Kay and father of Michael, Judy and Sue. Funeral Service at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle, on Friday 9th February at 2 pm. Details of Thanksgiving Service to be announced later. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to Natural Childbirth Trust or the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

STEVENS - Derek Probin died peacefully at home February 4th 1996, aged 76. Late of Paragon Laundry Group, Westgate Motorhouse and North Street Motors. Much loved husband of Christine, and father and grandfather. Service at Cold Ashton Village Church (nr. Bath) on Monday 12th February 2 pm. No flowers please, donations c/o F.W. Jones & Son, 30 Market Place, Chippenham, SN15 3HP for Cold Ashton Church and the Athrogryposis Group.

STOKES - Dorothy Ella Fountain (Dodo) née Nash, widow of Richard Cosby Stokes, peacefully on February 1st 1996 in her 90th year. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Caynham on Saturday 10th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to Save The Children, c/o A Hoskins and Son, 85 Graval Hill, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1QU.

DEATHS

THEMEN - Ben died aged 23 on 31st January, 1996, as a result of an accident whilst engaged in zoological research in the Kalahari Desert, South Africa. A dedicated and enthusiastic conservationist, warm-hearted and out-going. Ben died doing the things he loved most. A celebration of his life will take place on Wednesday 7th February, 1996 at 3 pm, in Pembroke College Chapel, Oxford. No flowers. Donations to Africa Resources Trust through the family.

TURVILL - John Richard (Dick) aged 71 years on 4th February peacefully after a short illness. Funeral Service to be held at Yeovil Crematorium on Friday February 9th at 11 am. Memorial Service at Kilbrandon Church, Seil, Scotland on Monday April 15th. Donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Stoodley & Son, Funeral Directors, Crewkerne, Somerset. tel: (01460) 73229.

WALKER - Madeleine (née Christie) on February 1st 1996, wife of the late David Paterson Walker, beloved mother of Pat and Amanda. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Islington, Upper Street, London N1, on Friday 9th February at 12 noon. Flowers, or donations please to Age Concern (Islington), 424 St John Street, EC1.

WILLIS - Theodore, aged 80. Beloved husband of Catherine, much loved by his family and friends. Died 4th February. Meeting for Worship Friends' Meeting House, Church Street, Alton, Hants., 2.30 pm Friday 9th February. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

RUSSELL-COBB - The Funeral Service for Trevor at Golders Green Crematorium, will now take place in the West Chapel at 12.30 pm on Wednesday February 7th, and not in the East Chapel, as previously announced.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TATCHELL - A Memorial Service for Rodney Tatchell, LVO, FSA, FRIBA, will be held at St Giles-in-the-Fields, London WC2, on Tuesday, 20th February 1996, at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ADAMS - Charles Geoffrey, OBE, PhD, BSc, FGS, Micropalaeontologist. A dear husband, father, grandfather and friend who passed away 6th February 1995. Remembered with much love today and always.

DEL MAR - Norman Rene CBE died 6th February 1994. Remembered always with deepest love, admiration and gratitude.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

DUFF - Congratulations to Dianne and Peter Duff for 25 wonderful years of marriage. You have continually provided us with unconditional love and support and are an inspiration to us both. All our love, Jane and Kevin.

BIRTHDAYS

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OBITUARIES

RUTH BERGHAUS

Ruth Berghaus, German stage director and choreographer, died from cancer in Berlin on January 25, aged 68. She was born in Dresden on July 2, 1927.

RUTH BERGHAUS had fiercely held beliefs, many of which were in political line with those prevailing in the German Democratic Republic where she first achieved artistic success. She was a Brechtian through and through and took over the artistic direction of the Berliner Ensemble in 1971, when Brecht's widow Helene Weigel died. But it was as an opera producer that Berghaus achieved most notoriety outside the GDR.

Her stagings were, with very few exceptions, uncompromising. She took a view of each work that she tackled and that view was highly personal, based on her own experiences and credos, sometimes to the point of obscurity. She drove the idea of "producer's opera", fashionable in the 1980s and beyond, to its ultimate limits. The stage directions of the composer and his librettist were not considered important and on occasion were jettisoned altogether. What mattered was the Berghaus vision.

Berghaus productions, often emphasising urban decay and brutality, heavily influenced a new generation of directors who began to arrive at opera houses with the "concept" of the piece they were about to stage already parcelled up. Concept began to be spelt with a capital C or, according to the cynics, with a capital Germanic K. Berghaus collected disciples — David Alden and David Fielding working at the English National Opera probably came under her spell at one time — and revilers in equal measure. She became as accustomed to the boos and outrage of affronted traditionalists as she was to the adulation of those determined to push out opera's frontiers. Her name on a production was to some a call to worship and to others a sharp warning to stay away.

Her British debut in 1984, made with the Welsh National Opera, was characteristic. Brian Macmaster, then in charge of the company, was an expert on East European theatre and engaged her for *Don Giovanni*. He provided a strong cast, with William Shimell in the title role and Anne Evans as Anna. The WNO's music director, Sir Charles Mackerras, conducted and Berghaus provided the scandal. *The Times* described the set as resembling a "wide crazy-pavement of baked mud", on which the cast discovered objects which included socks, shoes and a teapot. Don Ottavio sang his Act II aria in a snowstorm. The production was almost universally condemned, but the WNO stuck to its guns and brought it to London later in the year for a short season at the Dominion, where it was again booed on the first night but applauded on the second. Berghaus, though, did not return to the WNO.

Perhaps she had no need to. Her reputation was being established at the Frankfurt Opera, with the help of the conductor and administrator Michael Gielen. It had begun with a production in 1981 of Mozart's *Die*



Entführung, which stressed the constancy of women and the self-preening of men: one of Belmonte's arias was flanked by flambeaux and a grand piano. Her peak was almost certainly a *Ring* which drew all Berghaus devotees to Frankfurt. There was a certain irony in the representative of the still hated GDR being much feted in one of West Germany's richest cities.

Ruth Berghaus started by studying choreography at the Palucca Schule in her native Dresden. In her early twenties she saw the Berliner Ensemble in Brecht's *Mother Courage* and was so impressed that she determined to work for the company. This she did after a spell at the Komische Oper in East Berlin, where the theories of Walter Felsenstein rather than Brecht still reigned.

Berghaus's first success with the Berliner Ensemble was her choreography for the battle scenes in *Coriolanus*, a production that was later to come to London. She met the composer Paul Dessau, who had spent the war in America, partly working in Hollywood, before returning to Berlin and announcing solidarity with the GDR. Dessau wrote the music for a number of Brecht plays. Berghaus married him in 1954, although he was thirty years her senior, and she started to direct his operas. Dessau's *Die Verurteilung des Lukullus* was the first Berghaus production to be seen in the West.

Dessau died in 1979. Two years earlier Ruth Berghaus had resigned from the Berliner Ensemble, which was by then far from being the force it once had been, because of resistance to many of the changes she proposed. Much of her operatic work was done at East Berlin's Staatsoper. But in 1984 she shocked the quite staid Munich public with a production of Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, which began by filling the stage with a huge female nude and had Rosina making her first appearance peeping out of a nipple. The casting was very respectable — Hermann Prey, Reri Grist — the staging was not.

The Berghaus reputation grew fast and she appeared to have no difficulty in getting exit visas from the GDR. The Paris Opera invited her in 1985 to do Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*, designed by one of her regular collaborators, the architect Hans Dieter Schaal. She jettisoned Berg's very precise stage directions and opted for an urban jungle. Transvestites filled Berg's country tavern and Wozzeck waded to his death not into a lake but through a sea of waving arms. The early choreographic training and the insistence on meaningful movement never left her, even though the composer's intentions sometimes did.

Berghaus's devotion to her own artistic principles could never be questioned. She was ready to put her head on the block even when everything was running against her. Teresa Stratas, who was scheduled to sing the title role of Alban Berg's *Lulu* in Brussels under Ruth Berghaus's direction, fell ill on the opening night. Berghaus had another soprano perform offstage while she herself acted the part, making light of the fact that at sixty she was no femme fatale.

Major houses, although not in London, continued to take a risk with Berghaus. At the Vienna Festival she and Claudio Abbado resurrected Schubert's unwieldy opera of knightly chivalry, *Fierrabras*, and against all the odds together they made a success of it. Rolf Liebermann in Hamburg engaged her *Tristan* and entrusted her with his own piece *Freispruch für Medea*. Life with Berghaus was never dull. Her view might have been bleak, with perdition often just around the corner, but it was unwavering. She made sure that those who saw a Berghaus production did not forget it.

PROF CYRIL TYLER

Professor Cyril Tyler, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Reading University, 1968-76, died on January 25 aged 85. He was born on January 26, 1911.



CYRIL TYLER will be remembered for four achievements: his skill as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Reading during the university's period of rapid expansion, and the years of student unrest; his research work, principally into the structure of egg shells — a subject in which he became an acknowledged world authority; his considerable ability as a communicator of ideas; and his cricket, which he played for Gloucestershire for three seasons before the war.

Yet he often joked that little of this would have happened had he not been found, at the age of four, playing in a hayloft with a dangerous piece of agricultural machinery. The response of his father, a Yorkshire miner, and his mother, a "shoddy" mill-worker, was to send him to school nearly two years early, if only to keep him out of further mischief.

From the start he excelled both academically and on the sports field. He went on to Ossett Grammar School and took a first in agricultural chemistry at Leeds University, following it with a PhD. At the same time he made his name as a bowler of some promise in the West Riding Heavy Woollen District League.

His move south in 1936, to a post at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, like his early schooling, had an almost accidental air to it. Presenting his impeccable academic achievements to his interviewers, he found them more interested in his cricketing talents. He was offered the job — with more or less unlimited time off to play — on condition that he always wore the college blazer.

For three summers, before war broke out, he played at least one three-day game a week for the county, often in the company of some of the great names of the era, such as Hammond, Goddard and Emmett. He attributed much of his success on the field to the fact that he was a better soil scientist than any of the other bowlers. Eventually the question was asked in a newspaper headline: "Is Tyler The Man For England?" "Alas the answer was 'No'," he used to say, "but at least the question was asked!"

He moved to Reading University in 1939, as a temporary assistant lecturer in the agricultural chemistry department, and began serious ascent of the academic ladder. He wrote three books — one of which, *Organic Chemistry For Students Of Agriculture*, has stood the test of time — and dozens of papers on calcium metabolism in poultry and the structure of egg shells. He also became an expert on German agricultural history, translating many papers into English, including a whole book of Wilhelm von Nathusius. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and was awarded a DSc from Leeds University.

He was appointed professor at Reading in 1947, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture in 1959 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1968. His department changed its title three times during his leadership, first to physiological chemistry, then to physiology and biochemistry — leading a fellow academic to remark of him that he had not so much held a chair, more a settee.

It was very much his sense of humour which he brought to the task of helping to shepherd the university through its difficult period of transition in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Not all his colleagues always agreed with him; nevertheless, the vast majority paid tribute to his steadying influence during this period, and to his never having shirked the difficult and the disagreeable.

However, his first love was teaching. A number of prominent academics in the field drew their early inspiration from his lectures. Sometimes they responded to his humour with their own. On one occasion he lectured, without appearing to notice, to 60 students and a horse, only noting afterwards that the horse seemed more interested than the students.

His first wife, Myra, died in 1971. He is survived by their two sons and a daughter and by his second wife, Rita.

COLONEL KAJ BIRKSTED



Kaj Birksted, left, with fellow pilots of No 132 (Norwegian) Wing as they parade to receive decorations in the spring of 1944

Colonel Kaj Birksted, OBE, DSO, DFC, Danish Second World War fighter ace, died in London on January 21 aged 80. He was born on March 2, 1915.

ALTHOUGH a Dane (and the only Danish pilot to become a wartime ace, ie, to destroy more than five enemy aircraft) Kaj Birksted commanded one of the RAF's two Norwegian squadrons and subsequently led the Norwegian Wing. From mid-1941 onwards he was involved almost continuously in combat.

He took part in the early sweeps through which Fighter Command tried to gain control of the air over occupied France after the Battle of Britain. He had a leading role in repelling German raids on Thames Estuary installations in 1943. During his period as CO of No 132 (Norwegian) Wing he made it for a time the top-scoring unit in the RAF. And when finally rested from operations in the spring of 1944, he made an important contribution to the planning of fighter cover for the D-Day landings, on the planning staff of 11 Group.

His men esteemed him not only for his qualities as a fighter leader, but for his acuity in dealing with any problem relating to flying personnel, and for his organising ability and quickness to solve any difficulty.

Kaj Birksted was born in Boston, Massachusetts, where his father was working at the time. But at a young age he moved back to Denmark with his parents. In 1938 he graduated as a pilot officer in the Royal Danish Navy. On April 9, 1940, the day Denmark was occupied by the Germans, he was duty officer at the Royal Danish Naval Air Station at Copenhagen. A week later, he escaped to Sweden in a rowing boat and from there he went all the way up to North Norway to join Norwegian and British forces. But he arrived there only to find that the futile campaign against the Germans was coming to its end, and early in May 1940 he was evacuated to England in the destroyer *Wolverine*.

Birksted joined the Royal Norwegian Air Force and spent about six months at the "Little Norway" training camp in Ontario Province, Canada. Early in 1941 he was transferred to England where he was posted to 43 "Fighting Cock" Squadron RAF, flying Hurricanes on daytime sorties and night intruder operations over enemy-held territory.

When, in July 1941, the Royal Norwegian Air Force established its first fighter squadron, No 331 operating Spitfires, Birksted was transferred to it. His knowledge of air fighting and tactics, combined with his quick thinking and sound judgment soon ensured that, notwithstanding that he was neither Norwegian nor British, he was promoted squadron leader and commanded the squadron from August 1942 until April 1943.

He led it in more than sixty offensive operations, and when it joined with Norway's second squadron, No 332, to form the Norwegian Wing, he led the combined unit. During this period, his squadron destroyed at least 17 enemy aircraft and damaged 23 more.

He then spent two months as an instructor at the Fighter Leaders' School where his energetic input made him to a considerable extent responsible for its success. Birksted returned to North Weald in July 1943, and in August he was appointed Wing Commander Flying. From that point the wing destroyed more than 39 enemy aircraft for the loss of only four pilots. This achievement was largely attributable to Birksted's leadership in the air and to his conscientious work and sound organisation on the ground.

After having flown some 500 operational hours in command of the Norwegian Squadron and the Norwegian Spitfire Wing, he was posted to HQ No 11 Group in March 1944. He was made adviser on day operations to the Air Officer Commanding and responsible for planning the group's fighter cover and for escorts for all major air operations.

This included the intensive fighter operations in support of the Normandy invasion, the battle for Arnhem, and the day-to-day cover of ground operations.

Birksted ended his war with ten kills credited to him, and might well have had more. In addition to his DSO and DFC for his skill and leadership in the air, and his OBE for his contribution to planning, he was also invested with Norway's Order of St Olav.

With the war over, he returned to Denmark and became special adviser to the Minister of Defence on the rebuilding of Danish military aviation. When the Royal Danish Air Force was established in 1950, he was promoted lieutenant-colonel and, two days later, colonel and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. However, in spite of the leadership he had demonstrated during the war, he ran into difficulties in his relations with the higher command of the postwar Services.

He was not given the top post of Chief of the Air Force (carrying with it general's rank) as he had hoped and for which his record appeared eminently to fit him. In 1954, therefore, he took up a civilian post at Nato, first in Paris and later in Brussels. On retirement he settled in England.

Birksted will be remembered as a fine pilot, a crack shot, a resourceful tactician and a courageous wing leader. He was a first-class officer who, by his example, was an inspiration to all with whom he came into contact, not only in the RAF during the war, but also in the difficult build-up phase of the postwar Royal Danish Air Force.

He married, in 1945, Sonja Irgens, and is survived by her and by their son.

BERNARD JONES

Bernard Jones, horticulturist died on January 25 aged 89. He was born on August 4, 1906.

ONE of the great sweet pea exhibitors of his day, Bernard Jones was an authority on the cultivation and hybridisation of the "queen of annuals". Although a pharmacist by profession, it was sweet peas, with their delightful fragrance and their pastel flowers, which were his passion. In his book *The Complete Guide to Sweet Peas* he wrote: "I do sincerely believe that this most absorbing of pursuits can be a great aid to happiness in life for those who follow it."

Bernard Rees Jones began his career as a seaman, venturing as far as Iceland and Egypt in order to finance his studies in pharmacy. He qualified in 1930, and spent the rest of his career as a hospital pharmacist, first in London and later in Warwick. For thirty years he lectured to nursing students at Coventry Technical College.

It was after his move to Warwick, in 1943, that he began seriously to cultivate the sweet pea. Every autumn, seeds were sown in pots, then nurtured in cold frames before being planted out in beds. In late May and June they flowered in a frilled mass from which specimens were cut to make up vases for the show bench or kept for hybridisation and trial.

Jones worked on improving the modern Spencer sweet peas, which were vigorous plants with large blooms, but which lacked the perfume of older varieties. One year his experiments included a sowing of stock grown from the original Cupani purple scented variety, introduced to Middlesex in 1699.

Between 1953 and 1979 Jones won the National Sweet Pea Society's Clay Cup nine times. He also bred several new varieties, including an orange cerise bloom "Alice Hardwicke" — named after his mother — "Cream Beauty" and the frilled lavender Clay Cup winner "Jack Davis". For many years Jones lectured and wrote the National Sweet Pea Society cultural bulletins. Occasionally he made radio broadcasts with Percy Thrower. He also served as a member of the joint trials committee of the Royal Horticultural Society.

He is survived by his wife Nora, whom he married in 1929, and by their two sons.

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ON THIS DAY

February 6, 1852

The bursting of the Holme reservoir killed more than 90 people and devastated the countryside.

FLOOD AND LOSS OF LIFE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

. . . In the neighbourhood of Manchester the rivers were so much swollen by the rain that many of them overflowed their banks, submerging all the low grounds in the neighbourhood. At Wallness, on the north-west side of Manchester, the left bank of the Irwell was overflowed, and a great portion of the Peel Park laid under water. A large portion of Lower Broughton was also submerged, the ground in some places being covered to a depth of 9 feet. Two rows of houses at Broughton-view, between Broughton-lane and the river Irwell, seemed, at 4 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, in imminent danger of destruction. The flood had cut off all the approaches to these houses, and a strong wind which was blowing at the time drove the water against the walls with such force that Mr. Hacking, the proprietor, expressed a fear that the buildings would be washed down during the night, having been erected under contract, in a not very substantial manner. Mr. Beswick, the chief superintendent of the Manchester detective police, who resides in the neighbourhood, exerted himself for the assistance of the inhabitants, who were in the greatest alarm and consternation. He despatched some officers for a boat, in order that those who were afraid of remaining in the houses might be removed to a place of safety.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

From the succession of rainy weather, which has continued with slight intervals for the last five or six days, all the watercourses, streamlets, and rivers in Yorkshire have been filled with water, and many of them have overflowed their boundaries, in several instances doing injury to the surrounding property. One truly awful calamity has occurred, in which 60 or more human beings have lost their lives. A large reservoir of water, containing many thousand gallons, known as the Holme Reservoir, situated on a high piece of moorland, above the valley of the river Holme, a few miles from Huddersfield, became over-charged, and burst about 1 o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning, the flood carrying destruction and death in its course. The noise made by the bursting of the bounds of the reservoir was very loud, and the roar of the water in its destructive career down the sides of the hills and through the valley was tremendous. The reservoir was used for supplying several of the large woollen mills, and also, we believe, some of the household dwellings in the neighbourhood with water; and in the valley were some extensive woollen manufactories and the cottages of many of the workpeople. In its mad career the water inundated one of these manufactories and upwards of 20 dwellings, overwhelming, as it were, by one fell swoop, not only the buildings, but the inhabitants, nearly all of whom were asleep in their beds, in one fearful doom. Altogether, the number of persons drowned is said to be 60 or upwards. Many of the bodies, as well as the furniture of the houses and other articles, were carried a considerable distance—some into the Holme, and thence into the Calder. The writer of this heard that the body of a woman, with a child in her arms, who had lost her life by this melancholy casualty, was found in the latter river, several miles from the scene of the catastrophe . . .

هكذا في الاصل

ITF manager of the month offers new Ireland manager a helping hand

Brennan succeeds with ruthless selection policy



Stuart's goal for Everton on Saturday helped to secure the monthly prize of £500 for Cliftonville FC in the Interactive Team Football game

The celebrations in Belfast continued long into Tuesday night after a momentous day for Irish football management. Just as the news of Mick McCarthy's appointment as the new Ireland manager had raised the spirits of the Irish faithful, so Michael Brennan discovered he was the Interactive Team Football manager of the month. He was £500 the richer and planning on raising a few spirits of his own.

Mr Brennan's team, Cliftonville FC — named after an Irish League side — gained 147 points in January to take the prize in a high-scoring month. The news of this achievement took Mr Brennan by surprise. Initially he had misread the rules and thought that only matches involving two opposing Premiership clubs counted towards the ITF points total.

The philosophy behind his team selection owes something to McCarthy. "I heard Mick McCarthy quoting Alex Ferguson today. He said 'if I played a team of people I liked, I would win nothing'. That's how I select the team. These are not my favourite players, they are just people I know will do the job for me. You've got to be ruthless."

Mr Brennan has the full list of fixtures for the season and his aim is to play for the monthly manager's prize. Plotting the travels of every Premiership club for the next four weeks, he aims to make maximum use of the information month by month.

At the moment his team consists of Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), Wright (Aston Villa), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Ruddock (Liverpool), Mabbutt (Tottenham Hotspur), Curcic (Bolton Wanderers), Ebbrell (Everton), Newton (Chelsea), Draper (Aston Villa), Ferdinand (Newcastle United), Stuart (Everton), Redknapp (West Ham; manager).

"I was fortunate when I brought in Stuart and Pearce," Mr Brennan said. "The first game Pearce kept a clean sheet and scored a goal to win seven points and Stuart has scored every game since. And Stuart only cost £2 million."

As McCarthy takes over the reins from Jack Charlton, Mr Brennan is willing to lend his support. "He can drop me a line any time if he wants any advice," he said.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, or perhaps the luck of the Irish, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week.

Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any other overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Steve Morgan, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £6 million on Teddy Sheringham — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win *and* lose you points. With Gohils Gods 65 setting the pace, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

☐ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

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HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

*Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday, from 6pm on Saturday to 10am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 2pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category – for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out
Club
Player in
Club

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN

Code	Player	Club	Value
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	£0.5m
20804	T Challis	QPR	£1.0m
21706	M Frontzeck	Man City	£1.5m
31406	S Bilic	West Ham	£1.5m
40810	M Brazier	QPR	£0.75m
51405	Dani	West Ham	£2.5m

OUT

Code	Player	Club	Value
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	£1.0m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Gohils Gods 65	(Mr B Gohil)	464
2	Kevins Kickers	(K James)	458
3	Jones Boys Six	(M L Jones)	450
4	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	430
5	Steves Lions 2	(S Brewer)	423
6	Kisspurs Five	(EJ Kisby)	419
7	Steves Lions 6	(S Brewer)	418
8	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	415
9	Jessicas Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadison)	414
10	———	(J Nicholl)	413
11	Dwayns Dribblers	(A J Philcox)	412
12	Steves Lions 1	(S Brewer)	411
12	Aberspurs	(G Shand)	411
14	Steves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	410
14	Apollo 2	(S Lazarids)	410
16	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	409
16	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	409
18	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	407
18	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	407
20	Jones Boys Four	(L M Jones)	406
21	Phsyco And Smither	(K Booth)	405
22	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	404
23	Nobby One	(A Brown)	403
23	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	403
23	Steves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	403
26	Estuary	(Mr P Giles)	401
26	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	401
28	Strangers	(Mr G Banks)	398
28	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	398
28	Fair Fair Flapster	(C Woodward)	398
28	The Likely Lads	(G Pedder)	398
28	Steves Lions 8	(S Brewer)	398
33	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	397
33	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	397
35	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	396
35	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	396
37	Saltzburg United	(Mr P J Davies)	395
37	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	395
39	Bumrell United	(R Banham)	394
39	Bal's Team	(B Ghuman)	394
41	KP Fantasy Team 4	(Kr Patel)	393
42	Monster Monster	(M Parish)	392
42	Jacobookie FC	(Mr A P Jacobucci)	392
42	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	392
42	Razzor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	392
46	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	391
46	Nats Lions	(N Brewer)	391
48	The Doug Hutches	(M Stacey)	390
48	Commuting Eleven	(B Evans)	390
48	Bumzy's Babes	(T Burns)	390
48	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	390
48	Justintime	(A Kent)	390
53	The Mind Boogles	(Mr P Mc Dowall)	389
53	Carling XI	(P Parke)	389
53	Wotnosheerer	(K Booth)	389
56	Rescue City 2	(J Sanderson)	388
56	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	388
56	Turners Eamers	(P Turner)	388
59	Twighlight United	(P C Dilworth)	387
59	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	387
59	Rempstone Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	387
59	Chip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	387
59	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	387
64	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	386
64	Cameron Athan	(Mr J R Reader)	386
64	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	386
64	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podeur)	386
68	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	385
68	Steve's Scorers	(S Tinder)	385
68	Gutlord Marching	(Mr J M Harris)	385
68	The Magicians	(A Creegan)	385
68	Nedar	(Mr A Neviazsky)	385
73	Royal Woolwich	(G Williams)	384
73	Le Socks	(J Aldous)	384
73	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	384
73	Royle's Rangers	(P M Evans)	384
77	Abenbury Villa	(J S Dhesi)	383
77	Pursell Rangers	(FR Macdonald Pursell)	383
77	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	383
77	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	383
77	Albemarle Town	(I Hedges)	383
77	Merson The Person	(S Blane)	383
77	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	383
84	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	382
84	Armitage Shanks FC	(C Walker)	382
86	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	381
86	The Phantoms	(Z Mohammed)	381
86	Tilehurst Tornados	(D Chamberlain)	381
86	The Entertainers	(L Rappe)	381
86	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	381
88	Clares Ducks	(T Collier)	381
92	———	(——)	380
92	Nokia Rangers	(Mr A G W Whyte)	380
92	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	380
92	Pansey Unt	(S Leppard)	380
92	Pete's Star Turn	(Mr P J Macey)	380
92	Seldom United	(Mr T Armitage)	380
92	Badsam F	(D Mulholland)	380
92	Pig In A Poke	(Mr J Waters)	380
92	———	(——)	380
92	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	380
92	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	380
103	Scol Utd	(B Scollick)	379
103	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	379
103	Sparky	(M Radcliffe)	379
103	Keegans Crusaders	(S Armitage)	379
103	Brillo Boys	(C Timson)	379
103	F A Allstars United	(S Dosanj)	379
103	Well Safe	(A Costello)	379
103	Rassell 3	(D Shuter)	379
103	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	379
103	Poundswick Pupils	(J Plaiter)	379
103	Donney's Dream	(H Matthews)	379
103	Borussia Dundonald	(Kevin Smith)	379
115	Guilty OJ	(I Aldous)	378
115	———	(——)	378
115	C	(M Corless)	378
115	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	378
115	Firefly City	(I Harrison)	378
115	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	378
115	Seacaigeo FC 4	(S Adams)	378
115	DM 001	(D McGregor)	378
123	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	377
123	Kaisers Champions	(Mr K Chisholm)	377
123	The Locksters	(D Lock)	377
123	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	377
123	Foxton Rangers	(J Lees)	377
123	———	(S Armitage)	377
129	Jric 2	(J J Rolf)	376
129	Wimps Utd	(A Heath)	376
129	Turners Eamers 2	(P Turner)	376
129	Grove Rovers	(T Townsend)	376
129	Only Can Saver	(M McKeown)	376
129	Wannabee Stars	(A P Harris)	376
129	Avenue Dunelmian Uni	(K D Balfour)	376
129	Good Times United	(Mr T Stableford)	376
129	Premier Allstars	(D Middleton)	376
129	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scaletta)	376
129	Journeyman	(A Jordan)	376
129	Kisspurs Two	(EJ Kisby)	376
141	Tonys All Stars	(A Boyland)	375
141	Mighty Reds	(I Lewis)	375
141	Check Your Head Unit	(Mark Adamson)	375
141	Paron United	(Mr A Hewitt)	375
141	———	(N Thompson)	375
141	Aston Thrillers	(N Patel)	375
141	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	375
141	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	375
141	The Elite	(Mr C Moore)	375
141	The Sackers	(G Langley)	375
151	Long Drive	(I Parker)	374
151	KBT Utd	(R Patterson)	374
151	Nippers	(K Hughes)	374
151	God Squad	(C Hubbard)	374
151	Faye Wanderers	(Mr R Vaughan)	374
151	Wylde Green Town	(M Riggins)	374
151	Boogie Meisters	(B Robinson)	374
151	The Mighty Dunston	(Dr Hall)	374
151	J K's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	374
151	Reggie's Reds	(Mr J Bridge)	374
151	Inter Adeglo	(S Slade)	374
151	Al's Absorans	(A Hancock)	374
151	Eggs N'ham	(Mr D Warner)	374
151	Milton Town	(Mr RW Fitsell)	374
151	Barrys Army	(J P Barry)	374
151	Fraser Dribblers	(G Glenahan)	374
151	Racing Club Hamwel	(G Williams)	374
151	Black Swan Utd	(R Gummery)	374
169	Paterson S Dreamers	(M Paterson)	373
169	———	(M Firth)	373
169	Filmsts Utd	(P Dawson)	373
169	Xperts Utd	(S Dodd)	373
169	The Blue Boy'z	(E Prince)	373
169	Ol Armstrong Yes	(C Hyde)	373
169	Bohlean Forest	(S Burn)	373
169	Excellsiors	(N Excell)	373
169	Ramsden Raiders 2	(Mr A Shah)	373
169	110 Percent	(M C Doherty)	373
169	Mazi Heros	(M Trousaud)	373
180	Hot Hot Hotspurs	(Mr K.I Heist)	372
180	Royles Eleven	(D Ceko)	372
180	Jon Beeneys Donnar	(Mr J Parkinson)	372
180	Anti-Saints	(J Lowson)	372
180	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	372
180	Dream Team	(J Veltman)	372
180	Mikes Marvels	(M Fanning)	372
180	———	(M Dale)	372
180	Legion Of Doom	(D Madden)	372
180	Broom United	(A Stalnicki)	372
190	Mac United	(T McCluskey)	371
190	Skys The Limit	(B Cox)	371
190	Melds Skill Monsters	(M Meldrum)	371
190	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	371
190	Doug's Desperados	(Mr D F Richardson)	371
190	Dukes City	(D Ellis)	371
190	Pmt Eindhoven	(Mr A Shelley)	371
190	Platty Rovers	(Mr I Platt)	371
190	Switcheroo	(A Richardson)	371
190	Mercer's Men	(D Bowfors)	371
190	The Minds Fibiad	(R J Danavell)	371
190	———	(P Hutchinson)	371
190	The Gentlemen	(D Grassick)	371
190	Reza Rovers	(Mr Pagliari)	371
190	———	(P Hanna)	371
205	Gooners Forever Toge	(Del Lewis)	370
205	Hoglar Werin	(H Roberts)	370
205	Jumbled Rovers	(G John)	370
205	Andys Elites	(A Poole)	370
205	Phoenix 3rd XI	(Ns Heller)	370
205	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	370
205	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	370
205	Tunde United	(Dr T Adetunji)	370
205	The Conjurers	(Mr D J Farmer)	370
205	Tyes Blue Noses	(Mr S Tye)	370
205	No Way Thru' 5	(Mr AL Sydenham)	370
205	Map 9	(M Priestley)	370
205	Marts Mavericks	(M Slade)	370
205	Always Hope	(Mr R Foster)	370
205	They're Here	(Mr P Johnson)	370
205	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	370
205	Otterburn AFC	(C Watson)	370
205	Jessy's Giants	(A Jess)	370
205	Leitrim Celts	(Mr MJ Hamilton)	370
205	Leitrim Celts	(Mr MJ Hamilton)	370
205	PKF Pundit	(P Francis)	370
205	Jason Lee Rules	(T Ross)	370
205	Mumfordian Utd	(J Mumford)	370
205	Wildebeest	(Mr J Albertsen)	370
205	CST UTD	(GC Bell)	370
230	Athletico Lizard	(F Oneill)	369
230	Jaymes Jugs	(K Hughes)	369
230	Charwaynia	(Probson)	369
230	Tapcream	(R Hetherington)	369
230	Splet Utd	(P Mason)	369
230	Blakes Rovers	(EA Blakemore)	369
230	Leonidas	(Mr P Gregoriou)	369
230	Don't Make Me Laugh	(R Collett)	369
230	Old Etonians	(PA Atkinson)	369
230	Score A Bundle	(S A Billingham)	369
230	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	369
230	St Remy Strikers	(G Debnor)	369
230	Pilkys Pirates	(R R Pilkington)	369
230	The Glory Boys	(N Venn)	369
230	Cosy Dunts	(P Watt)	369
230	Purple Sunflowers	(NP Rickard)	369
230	Risk Versus Reward	(N O'Haire)	369
230	Moneybags United	(P Elfridge)	369
230	Megs Eleven	(T Becker)	369
230	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	369
230	———	(Mrs S Carter)	369

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

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0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	+2
10102	B Mimms	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	+8
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-2	-15
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+10	+31
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	-0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11
10502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75	-8	-6
10601	P Srnicek	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+10
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+5	+5
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-6	-31
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-7	-5
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-4	-14
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	+3	+4
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+13
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-3	-35
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	+2	-12
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-6
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	-4
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-6	-27
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	+4	-5
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+35
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-9	-14
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-62
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+22
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+32
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+20
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-1	+6
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-1	+12
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+26
20302	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+16
20303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-12
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+7	+34
20402	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+26
20501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	-3	+8
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	-1	+10
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-2	-4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+17
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+28
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+13
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+6
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+4	+29
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+13
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	-7
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-3
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	-3	-4
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-4	-15
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-1	+14
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	0	+4
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	-1	+9
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+12
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0	+15
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+7
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+21
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+30
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+27
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-5
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-9
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-1
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+5
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	+3	+3
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+9
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	-1	+9
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	-3	-6
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	-3	-22
21702	R Edghill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+41
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	+4	+7
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	+6	+46
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	-4	+17
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	-5	+18
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	-6
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-12
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	+1	-8
22003	J Philips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	-16
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+27
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+3
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+19
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0	+20
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+16
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	-1
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+24
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-1	+9
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	+8	+28
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+33
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	+8	+18
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	+4	+25
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	0	+11
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	-2	+7
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	-1	-2
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1
30506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.50	-1	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+4	+18
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+28
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+23
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+24
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+16
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-1
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0



Morgan seeks value for money in the selection of his side and sees £10 million for Alan Shearer as prohibitive

Morgan's value verdict

Steve Morgan, a Coventry City full back, talks about his ITF selection

FROM the start I decided to ignore the expensive players and go for the people I knew and had played against and who were a bit cheaper. Looking at it now I think I have got some real bargains in my team.

When you have only £35 million to spend it is easy to go over the limit. Every player picked means you have to see what is left in the kitty and work out how you are going to make up the rest of the team with what is left. Some of the prices are huge — Shearer costs £10 million — but I do not think that it is the expensive players who are necessarily going to do a good job for you week in, week out.

All my midfield men are steady players. They may not be been piling up loads of points every time they play, but they have been getting enough to get me to tenth place in the league. I picked them to do a job and so far they have been doing that for me.

My star players, if you like, are Jamie Redknapp and Teddy Sheringham. You can see Redknapp is a class player and he is still young, so he has a great future. Sheringham, too, has real class and is always going to get goals.

At first, I wanted to have Andy Cole in my side. Before the season started I was thinking about him because of his reputation as a goalscorer at Newcastle United. But I thought I would save a little money and go for Sheringham instead and now I would never change my mind.

At Newcastle, Cole had the wingers whipping in balls to him all the time and it seemed easy for him. You only have to look at the number of goals Les Ferdinand has scored since he has been at Newcastle to see what a difference that sort of service makes. At Old Trafford it is a bit different, but I think Cole is settling in there and at least he is sticking at it. I think he will have a good season next year.

Goalkeeper:	D James	(Liverpool)	£3.5
Full backs:	S Clarke	(Chelsea)	£1.5
	D Irwin	(Man Utd)	£4.5
Centre backs:	C Palmer	(Leeds)	£3.0
	D Unsworth	(Everton)	£2.5
Midfielders:	A Impey	(QPR)	£1.5
	J Redknapp	(Liverpool)	£2.5
	R Keane	(Man Utd)	£2.5
	D Batty	(Blackburn)	£1.5
Strikers:	M Bright	(Sheff Wed)	£2.5
	E Sheringham	(Tottenham)	£6.0
Manager:	R Atkinson	(Coventry)	£1.5

If the money did not matter, I would definitely have Ferdinand in my side, but he is not cheap. Another player I did not pick because he was so expensive was Steve McManaman. I think he and Ryan Giggs are the two hardest players to play against. They are tricky players, men who can change a game for their teams and can be a direct threat on goal or set things up for other people. You are never quite sure what they are going to do next.

The midfield men I did go for were Roy Keane and David Batty. I have known Batty for years since we played England schoolboys and under-19s together. He is always steady and consistent and when I saw how cheap he was, he was straight in the side.

Mark Bright was another bargain. Strikers do not come cheap, but he was only £2.5 million and yet he always pops up and scores goals. He is in double figures most seasons so he was another easy choice for Dred Select.

The team name comes from my nickname. When I was at Plymouth I used to have my hair permed on top and shaved at the sides. It looked a bit like dreadlocks. So when the lads saw me they called me Dred straight away and that is what I have answered to for years.

I have been out all season with an Achilles injury and I am only just back in training now.

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-3	-11
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-2	-8
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-4	0
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-6
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	-3	-3
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-4
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-4	-18
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-2
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-1	+7
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	+10
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	-1	+6
31101	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+14
31102	J Kjaldbjerg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+3	+6
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	+4	+20
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+17
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	-6
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-1
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+10
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	+6	+11
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+24
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1	+9
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	-2	+11
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-12
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-18
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+12
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+7	+18
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+35
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+3	+25
31804	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	+9
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	+18
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-8
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	+1
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-1	-17
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-9
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40102	D Batty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+29
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	0
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+29
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+31
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+1
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+7
40110	L Bohlinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+1	+38
40111	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+7
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+1
40201	R Giggs	Manchester United	5.50	+1	+43
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+24
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+1	+22
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+1	+27
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	+1	+29
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+26
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+36
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+38
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+2	+11
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+2	+23
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+4	+46
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0	+21
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+39
40404	P Stewart	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	+4	+13
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40410	J Molby	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+3	+26
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+2	+42
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+2	+34
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	+2	+14
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0	0
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	+1	+2
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+3
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+2	+46
40603	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+35
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+28
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	+4	+32
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	+2	+15
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1
40701	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+23
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+16
40704	D Caskey	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+6
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40706	I Dumitrescu	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+5
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+2	+31
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+9
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+20
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+14
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+29
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+1	+31
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40809	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	+3	+3
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	+9
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+37
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+3	+21
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+33
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+4	+40
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+16
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	0	+14
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+6
41006	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	0	+16
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	+2	+15
41008	M Watters	Southampton	1.50	+2	+2
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	0	+36
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+3	+31
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	+11	+28
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+7
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	0	+13
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	+3	+31
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+23
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+45
41204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+13
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+2
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	+1	+14
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0	+29
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	1.50	+1	+2
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+7
41302	A Sinton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+8
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+1	+27
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+10
41305	K Ingesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+9
41309	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+18
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	+1	+19
41404	M Allen	West Ham United	2.00	0	+4

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+32
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	+4	+20
41410	S Lazaridas	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+24
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+2	+12
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+14
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+25
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	0	+24
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+3	+19
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+29
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+2
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+1	+41
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+19
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+29
41608	M Isaias	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+2	+33
41701	G Flitcroft	Manchester City	2.50	+2	+18
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+30
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+15
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+32
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+36
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+5	+7
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+25
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+2	+29
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+3	+35
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+41
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+26
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+24
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+16
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+7
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+13
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+14
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+16
42009	S Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+14

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+6	+74
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+21
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+8
50105	N Goodm'dsson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+5	+37
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+3	+40
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+16
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+30
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+3	+27
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	+22
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+25
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+2	+3
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+4	+67
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+4	+38
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	0	+43
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+23
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+2
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	+1	+16
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+3	+64
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+33
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+60
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+43
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+26
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	0	+15
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+5
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-3	+19
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+2	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+1	+31
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+14
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+10
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+8
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+22
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	+2	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	+1	+20
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+4	+38
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+4	+19
51004	C Maskell	Southampton	0.75	0	0
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+22
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+27
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+5	+14
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+39
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+3	+33
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+9
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	0	+37
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+20
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+27
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+4
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	+3	+34
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+4	+27
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1	+14
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	0	+22
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+28
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+3	+40
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+4	+44
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+20
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+6	+20
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+3	+33
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	+1	+24
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+11
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+2	+40
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+6	+45
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+23
51901	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	5.00

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1996

NEWS

Teaching blamed for low standards

■ Half of all primary schools and four out of ten secondaries are falling below acceptable standards, the Chief Inspector of Schools said in a critical annual report demanding an overhaul of teaching methods.

Chris Woodhead pointed to widespread literacy and numeracy problems, and called for greater use of streaming according to ability — although he stopped short of demanding a wholesale return to traditional teaching ..... **Pages 1, 6**

Snow from the west and more to come

■ Snow was being driven by high blustery winds across much of the country. Weathermen forecast that the snow would settle with temperatures set to hover around zero until the end of the week when another weather front, gathering over the Atlantic, may bring further snow falls..... **Page 1**

Fight for TV sport

The BBC launched a fierce last-minute campaign to prevent Britain's biggest sporting events being broadcast only on satellite television ..... **Page 1**

MPs' pay inquiry

A wide-ranging independent inquiry into the pay, allowances and pensions of MPs and ministers is expected to be announced today..... **Page 1**

Ticket investigation

Police are prepared to launch a full criminal investigation into allegations of ticket fraud at LTS Rail, the train franchise that was pulled from the brink of privatisation ..... **Page 2**

Ashdown writ

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, issued libel proceedings against a newspaper which published allegations about his personal life ..... **Page 2**

Screening doubts

Fresh doubts about the accuracy of cervical screening tests carried out on millions of women were raised as a hospital disclosed that it would re-examine 70,000 cervical smears..... **Page 3**

Homes crisis

Residents in a growing number of old people's homes are being put through the trauma of closure and relocation as a financial crisis grips the private care sector ..... **Page 7**

Pension benefits

The benefits of occupational pension schemes will be extended to the staff of small firms under plans to be unveiled by Peter Lilley tomorrow..... **Page 10**

American freeze

Ice floes have appeared in the Hudson and moustaches have snapped off in Minnesota. Record low temperatures were recorded as eastern America's freezing weather continued ..... **Page 11**

Dole rattled

Robert Dole, the Republican front-runner, has rounded on Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, because he has been shaken by Forbes's surge in popularity..... **Page 12**

Kremlin intrigue

One of President Yeltsin's closest aides is to drop a pre-election bombshell on the embattled Russian leader with a book on Kremlin power struggles..... **Page 13**

German aim

A large majority of Germans are in favour of European projects, including common foreign and defence policies, in spite of growing scepticism about European Monetary Union ..... **Page 14**

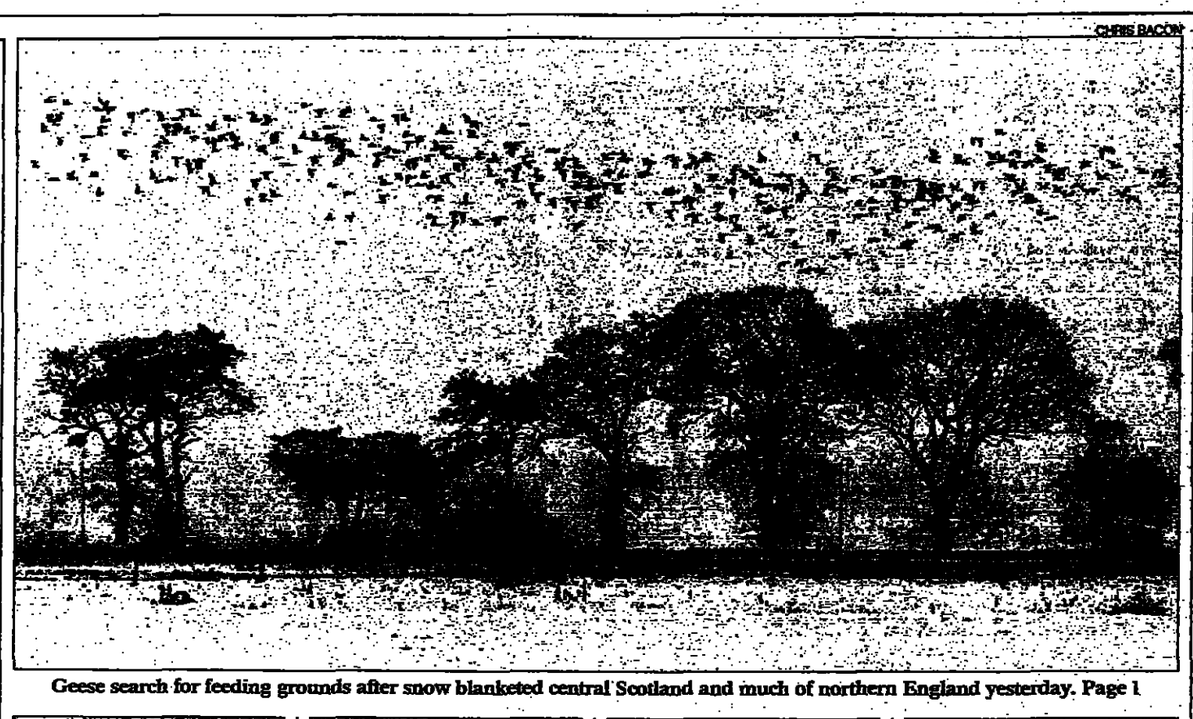
Taiwan threatened

A huge Chinese troop mobilisation along its eastern coast facing Taiwan, ahead of the first presidential elections there, led to mounting tension ..... **Page 15**

Squirrels killed to save squirrels

■ Grey squirrels are to be poisoned to save the rapidly dwindling native red squirrel. Food laced with warfarin will be placed in special hoppers on Anglesey. Previously the Ministry of Agriculture prohibited the poisoning of greys for fear that reds might also die but the Forestry Commission has designed a hopper that only the stronger greys can open ..... **Page 3**

CHRIS BACON



Geese search for feeding grounds after snow blanketed central Scotland and much of northern England yesterday. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Economy: Housing starts slumped by 20 per cent in the last quarter of 1995, raising new fears about the strength of the economy. Growth in the money supply also slowed in January..... **Page 25**

British Telecom: Oftel has ordered BT to cut £50 million a year from charges it makes for delivering long distance calls over BT phone lines..... **Page 25**

Sears: The retailer is selling its Curtess and Saxone shoe stores to privately owned retailer Facia for an undisclosed sum..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 34.7 points to 3746.6. The sterling index was unchanged at 83.7, with the pound rising 1.37 cents to $1.5327 but falling .58 pfennigs to DM2.2526..... **Page 28**

Cricket: The World Cup faced further disruption after West Indies followed Australia's lead in asking for their match against Sri Lanka to be moved elsewhere..... **Page 48**

Football: Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, was confirmed as manager of the Republic of Ireland in succession to Jack Charlton. McCarthy won 57 caps in his playing career..... **Page 48**

Sailing: Jacky MacGillivary, 42, an Eastbourne housewife, will lead an amateur crew in the Whitbread Round The World Race, the premier racing event..... **Page 48**

Racing: The sport's rulers and paymasters are seriously at odds over the Ladbrokes report which advocates changes to the "customer-friendly" fixture-list..... **Page 45**

McGovern's Molière: The Hollywood star Elizabeth McGovern is preparing for her British stage debut, in Molière's *Misanthrope* at the Young Vic..... **Page 34**

Riot of Riley: A new London exhibition from Bridget Riley shows that the painter has lost none of her exuberant command of brilliant colour..... **Page 35**

Beethoven complete: The Emerson String Quartet completed its cycle of all the Beethoven quartets at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in superb fashion last weekend..... **Page 34**

Mozart honoured: Salzburg has a new Mozart shrine. The family home of the teenage prodigy has been refurbished as a fascinating new museum..... **Page 36**



IN THE TIMES

■ **NET NOTES**
From Bach to Blur: music on the Internet in *Interface*, our weekly guide to computers

■ **ART VIEW**
Alan Coren offers an essential guide to surviving the Cézanne exhibition

Alternative health, day two: How Chinese herbs cure; Dr Thomas Stuttaford on dangerous diagnoses: therapies in other countries; lifestyle accessories..... **Page 16**

Packing heat: More and more American women are carrying miniature revolvers in their bags, either for decoration or for protection..... **Page 17**

Nigella Lawson: says that while transsexuals complain of the intolerance of the rest of us, it is they who are so intolerant..... **Page 17**

A legal insult: Lord Woolf is looking into the civil justice system. The case of Ron Lipsius, the King's Cross fire victim, shows just how much reforms are needed..**Page 37**

South Africa's victory in the African Nations Cup on Saturday February 3, adds a new chapter to the political and sporting fairy story which began on the day Nelson Mandela was freed. The former land of apartheid has amassed conquests in virtually every field from rugby to tourism, from cricket to diplomacy finishing off, for the time being, with football

— Le Monde

Britain should not betray its own values of free speech and asylum in order to help Saudi Arabia stifle political debate — *New York Times*

Preview: Management and unions provide drama at Covent Garden, *The House* (BBC2, 9.30pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard says the medical establishment could do with a public relations course .....**Page 47**

Stand by Taiwan

China has always maintained that it would invade Taiwan if it declares independence. Now faced by what it sees as an intolerable affront by a "renegade province", it is reported to be planning massive military manouevres in Fujian province..... **Page 19**

Must try harder

Why are British school standards so low? Yesterday the still, small voice of Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, brought some calm to the impassioned national debate..... **Page 19**

Heroes of sport

In deciding to forfeit their match against Sri Lanka in the World Cup — to be played in the island's capital, Colombo — the Australians have acted neither with courage nor with diplomacy..... **Page 19**

LIBBY PURVES

Unethical business is an enemy of prosperity. One company may enrich itself by hanging on to another's money but the collapse of the creditor firm will cost every taxpayer something..... **Page 18**

CHRIS WOODHEAD

Some primary teachers understandably embrace a theory which plays down the importance of intellectual content and puts a concern for the child at the heart of the educational process..... **Page 18**

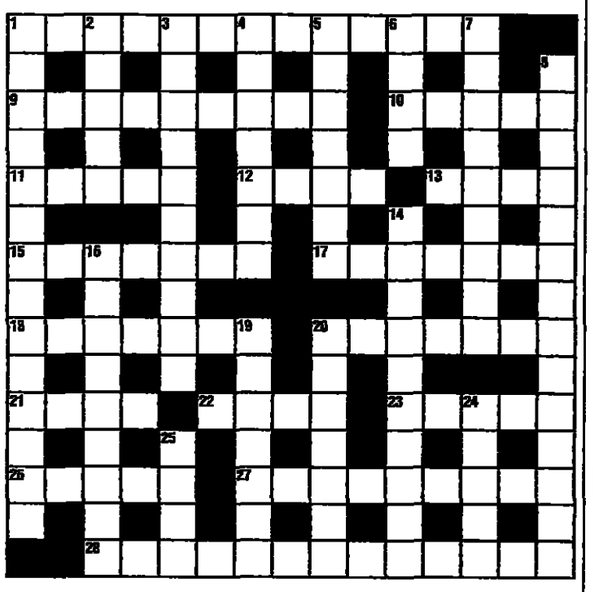
PETER RIDDELL

Polls point to a firming of support, particularly for Mr Major himself, among traditional Tory backers, while economic optimism has begun to recover ..... **Page 10**

Ruth Berghaus, German stage director and choreographer; **Professor Cyril Tyler**, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Reading University; **Colonel Kaj Birksted**, Danish fighter ace; **Bernard Jones**, horticulturalist..... **Page 21**

TV sporting events; Heseltine's payment advice; the EU and defence..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,083



ACROSS

1 Twin goes after gold? It's a gamble (6,2,5).
9 Solo player's call for food during a ball (9).
10 Return of musical group that's outstanding in joint production (5).
11 King joins Irish county council leader (5).
12 Officer docked sailing ship (4).
13 Man-eater producing retreat by soldiers? (4).
15 Partnership's securing weapon contracts (7).
17 Relies on others for cakes (7).
18 Ill-starred pals she turned out (7).
20 Chase me with soldiers in weapons establishment down under (7).
21 Poverty revealed in magazine editorial (4).
22 To express pleasure audibly is simpler out East (4).
23 Rake around front of garden, revealing red powder (5).
26 Not the cloth to spread around it (5).
27 It mainly comes from this source of rumour (9).
28 Fruit for one possibly airing old joke (5,8).

DOWN

1 Casualty is a composer, we hear — one depressed by some drivers (4,4,6).
2 A lot of interest shown by university in American transport (5).
3 Trousers made using needle, and cut short? (10).
4 Many people are moved by such a volume (7).
5 Challenges curtailment of search, suppressing rising anger (7).
6 Small amount I found in Athens (4).
7 Ungodliness eagerly reported in religious assembly (9).
8 Restrained declaration included in details of account (14).
14 Dreary fellow in business looks sullen (10).
16 Pilsner he ordered as refill (9).
19 Run like an old gentleman? (7).
20 Aggressive course taken by the brave (7).
24 It connects pipes in the students' club (5).
25 Stainer sounds dreadful to the audience (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,082

A	N	T	A	C	I	D		C	E	S	S	I	O	N
P		R		A		A		T		D		O		C
H	E	A	T	S		R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T
I		N		T		E		A		H				
D	I	S	M	E	M	B	E	R		D	E	L	H	I
E		P				O		F				N		
S	C	O	W	L		A	P	P	E	A	S	I	N	G
		R		A		R		E		S		N		
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	E	D		T	I	T	H	E
R		N				O				H		Y		
T	I	M	I	D		D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N	E
I		I		R		E		M		M		H		
C	O	M	P	E	T	E	N	T		B	R	A	T	O
L		I		S		A		E		I		L		
E	X	C	U	S	E	D		R	E	T	I	N	U	E

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, 1.38in; highest sunshine: Margate, Kent, 6.7hr.

UK TODAY'S FORECAST

General: snow in many areas.

Eastern England will have a little light snow at first but become drier later. The rest of England and Wales will also have occasional snow with heavy falls over the hills. South-western areas will have showers of rain rather than snow.

Much of Scotland will be cloudy with further snow, especially in the east and south, turning more showery later. The northwest and the islands will have patchy light rain or snow.

Northern Ireland will be cloudy with squally showers.

It will be cold everywhere.

☐ **London, SE, NE, E England, E Anglia:** cloudy, light snow at first, drier later. Wind southeast, fresh becoming moderate. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Central S, Cent N, NW England, Midlands, Lakes, IoM:** sleet or snow at times. Heavy snow over the hills. Drier later. Wind mainly southeast, light to moderate. Cold. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, N Ireland:** showers, some bright spells. Wind northwest, fresh to strong. Cold. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Wales:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain, sleet or snow and drier later. Wind northwest, light becoming fresh. Cold. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** snow, heavy at times becoming light later. Wind mainly south, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, with patchy rain, sleet or snow. Wind west or southwest, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold with occasional sleet or snow in many areas.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

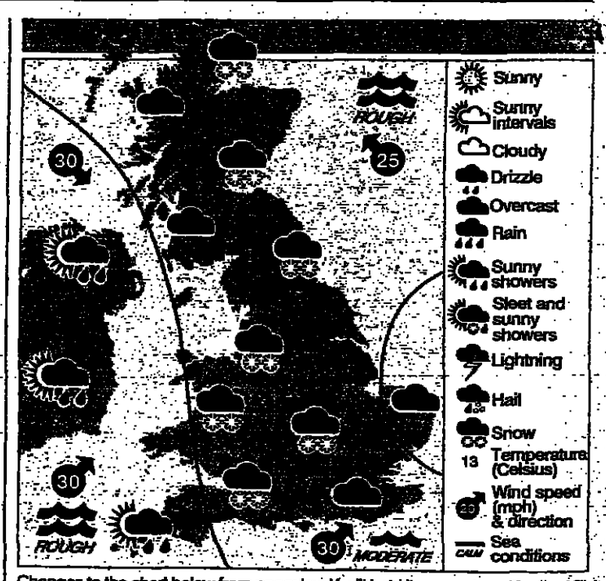
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.05	2	36	sn	Littlehmpton	0.4	-	2	36	b
Anglesey	-	0.15	4	39	sn	Liverpool	-	0.02	2	36	sn
Aspatria	-	0.07	2	36	sn	London	1.5	-	2	36	c
Aviemore	-	0.02	2	36	sn	Lowestoft	6.5	-	3	37	s
Belfast	-	0.31	4	39	r	Manchester	-	-	2	36	sn
Birmingham	-	-	1	34	c	Margate	6.7	-	2	36	s
Bognor R	0.2	-	2	36	c	Minehead	-	0.17	3	37	sn
Bournem'th	-	-	3	37	c	Morecambe	-	-	3	37	sn
Bristol	-	-	3	37	c	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	-	-	0	32	du	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	-	-	3	37	sn	Norwich	X				
Clacton	X					Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	1.0	-	1	34	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.04	3	37	h	Penzance	-	0.63	8	46	r
Cromer	6.6	-	3	37	s	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	0.4	-	3	37	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	3	37	sn
Eastbourne	1.7	-	1	34	du	Ross-o-wye	-	-	2	36	sn
Edinburgh	-	0.04	3	37	sn	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.72	-1	30	sn	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	-	0.13	5	41	r	Sandown	-	-	3	37	c
Falmouth	0.7	0.39	8	43	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.04	3	37	c
Fleetwood	-	X	2	36	sn	Scarboro'	2.1	-	1	34	b
Folkestone	4.5	-	1	34	b	Shanklin	0.1	-	2	36	c
Glasgow	-	0.20	2	36	sn	Shrewsbury	-	-	2	36	sn
Guernsey	-	0.02	4	39	sn	Skegness	6.4	-	2	36	s
Hastings	0.4	-	1	34	c	Southend	5.4	-	2	36	s
Hayling I	0.1	-	2	36	c	Southport	-	0.05	2	36	sn
Herne Bay	5.5	-	1	34	b	Southsea	-	-	2	36	c
Hove	-	-	2	36	du	Stornoway	2.3	0.17	6	43	sh
Hunstanton	6.3	-	2	36	s	Swanage	0.4	-	3	37	c
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	-	0.26	5	41	r
Isle of Man	-	0.87	4	39	sl	Torbay	X				
Jersey	1.9	-	3	37	sn	Tiree	0.8	0.50	6	43	sh
Kinloss	-	-	4	39	sn	Torquay	0.3	0.21	6	41	r
Leeds	-	-	2	36	sn	Tynemouth	-	-	1	34	c
Lerwick	-	0.07	4	39	r	Ventnor	0.3	-	3	37	c
Leuchars	-	0.21	1	34	sn	Weymouth	-	-	4	39	b

ABROAD

Ajaccio	7	45	c	Corfu	14	57	f	Madrid	7	45	f
Alicante	14	57	r	C'phagn	-4	25	s	Majorca	11	52	c
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	4	39	r	Malaga	15	59	s
Algiers	13	55	c	Dubrovnik	7	45	r	Malta	16	61	s
Amst'dm	3	37	c	Faro	14	57	s	Melb'rne	20	68	f
Athens	18	61	f	Florence	8	46	c	Mexico C	12	54	s
B Aires	29	84	f	Frankfurt	-1	30	c	Miami	13	55	s
Bahrain	15	61	s	Funchal	17	63	f	Milan	4	39	r
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	-1	30	c	Montreal	-15	5	X
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Moscow	-11	12	c
Barcelona	10	50	s	Helsinki	-10	14	s	Munich	-4	25	f
Beirut	16	61	f	Hong K	20	68	f	N Delhi	20	68	s
Belgrade	-3	27	sn	Innsbruck	-1	30	f	N York	-9	16	s
Berlin	-3	27	f	Istanbul	8	46	r	Nairobi	31	88	f
Bermuda	21	70	r	Jeddah	25	77	s	Naples	14	57	f
Biarritz	8	46	f	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Nice	10	50	f
Borde'x	6	43	s	Karachi	X			Oslo	-12	10	sn
Brussels	-1	30	c	L Angele	18	64	f	Paris	1	34	f
Budapst	-3	27	c	L Palmas	20	68	f	Peking	1	34	s
Cairo	20	68	s	Le Touet	1	34	s	Perth	32	90	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Lisbon	12	54	r	Prague	-3	27	c
Ch'church	25	77	s	Locarno	7	45	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	r
Chicago	-19	-2	s	Luxembg	-1	30	s	Rhodes	15	59	r
Cologne	0	32	c	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	31	88	f

Riyadh	16	61	s			
Rome	10	50	c			
S Fr'isco	16	61	r			
S Paulo	25	77	f			
Salzburg	-4	25	c			
Seoul	-4	25	s			
Sing'por	27	81	f			
St'kholm	-12	10	s			
Strasb'rg	0	32	s			
Sydney	29	84	s			
Tangier	15	59	f			
Tel Aviv	17	63	f			
Tenerife	19	66	f			
Tokyo	9	48	s			
Toronto	-13	9	f			
Tunis	12	54	c			
Valencia	14	57	f			
Vanc'ver	2	36	c			
Venice	6	43	s			
Vienna	-3	27	s			
Warsaw	-4	25	c			
Wash'ton	-9	16	s			
Wel'ngton	20	68	s			
Zurich	-3	27	c			

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low K will hold its current position and fill slightly. High S will remain stationary and maintain its central pressure. Low Z will move southeast as it fills



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:41	6.7	3:06	6.8	Leith	3:30	5.2	3:46	5.4
Aberdeen	2:23	4.1	2:34	4.3	Liverpool	0:09	9.0	12:20	9.2
Avonmouth	8:15	12.7	8:36	12.5	Lowestoft	10:47	2.3	10:40	2.5
Belfast	0:02	3.2	12:16	3.5	Margate	0:43	4.5	1:04	4.4
Cardiff	7:58	11.7	8:17	11.5	Milford Haven	7:12	5.7	7:30	6.0
Devonport	6:47	5.3	7:10	5.1	Newquay	6:02	6.7	6:18	6.6
Dover	-	-	12:05	6.3	Oban	6:42	4.0	7:05	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	2:20	4.2	3:08	3.9	Penzance	5:42	5.3	6:07	5.1
Falmouth	6:02	5.1	6:16	4.8	Portland	7:45	2.1	8:11	1.9
Greenock	1:46	3.1	1:35	3.5	Portsmouth	0:10	4.5	12:18	4.5
Harwich	0:38	3.8	12:55	3.7	Shoreham	0:00	6.0	12:08	6.0
Holyhead	11:20	5.5	11:39	5.3	Southampton	11:44	4.4	-	-
Hull (Albert D)	7:18	7.0	7:21	7.3	Swansea	7:25	9.1	7:44	9.0
Ilfracombe	6:59	9.1	7:20	9.0	Tees	4:41	5.0	4:57	5.2
King's Lynn	7:13	6.3	7:28	6.4	Weston-on-Nass	0:30	6.0	12:50	6.0

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Sun rises: 7.32 am
Sun sets: 4.58 pm
Moon sets: 7.52 am
Moon rises: 7.20 pm

London 4.58 pm to 7.30 am
Bristol 5.08 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.58 pm to 7.57 am
Manchester 5.00 pm to 7.45 am
Penzance 5.23 pm to 7.48 am

Last quarter February 12

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The actress set to make Madonna out of Molière



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How the courts should handle injury claims



SPORT 44-48

Cricket World Cup undermined by fears for security

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1996

Fears for overall economic growth after housing starts fall 20%

More gloom in store for builders

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of houses that started construction in the final three months of 1995 slumped 20 per cent from a year earlier, presaging more misery for the industry and suggesting that, overall, the economy will fail to pick up much steam.

In 1995 as a whole, housing starts, including those built by the private sector and housing associations, totalled 169,700, a drop of 15 per cent compared with 1994. Private housing starts in the final quarter totalled 30,200, the lowest figure since the final three months of 1992. Indeed, there have only been two lower quarterly totals in the last decade. In December, private starts totalled 10,200, nearly 21 per cent down on December 1994.

Separate figures yesterday showed a drop in M0 narrow money supply in January, giving the lowest annual growth rate since October. Although the once close relationship between M0 and retail sales has broken down in recent years, the City still took the figures as a sign that the high street had a sluggish new year after a relatively healthy Christmas season.

Neither figures were deemed weak enough to weigh in favour of yet another cut in interest rates at tomorrow's monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Having cut base rates by a quarter point in both December and January, the Chancellor is unlikely to push for another easing and Mr George exceedingly unlikely to advise one.

Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank, said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday that the Chancellor's forecast of 3 per cent growth this year, regarded as optimistic by many independent forecasters, was "well within the realms of possibility". His comment suggests that the Bank continues to believe that the recent weakness in economic activity is a pause in growth and will not lead to a more serious slowdown and that therefore there are few grounds to cut rates on this score.

However, the latest evidence on the economy appears to leave the way open for another rate cut or two later in the spring. While the implication of M0 is not clear, housing starts have proved to be a good indicator of future economic performance.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, noted that an abrupt plunge in housing starts in 1989-90 was one of the first clues to the severity of the subsequent recession, and the continued refusal of starts to pick up in 1991 and early 1992 correctly signalled that the overall economy would remain sluggish. Mr Saunders said that housing starts have weakened steadily over the last year. He added that this implied that the broader economy was likely to grow only slowly.

M0 mopey supply fell by 0.2 per cent in January, the first month-on-month drop for a year. This took the annual rate of growth to 5.3 per cent from 5.7 per cent in December, lower than the City had expected. Part of the reason for the fall in M0 in January was a sharp decline in bankers' operational deposits, which are extremely volatile. However, stripping these out and looking at growth in notes and coins in circulation, the annual rate of growth still slipped to 5.7 per cent from 5.8 per cent.

The City will now be waiting for the Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey published on Friday to see whether the drop in M0 will be reflected in weak retail sales.

Consumers shifting, page 29

Shake-out hits London prices

A GLOBAL shake-out in equity, bond and futures markets yesterday saw leading shares in London fall heavily. The FT-SE 100 index ended 34.7 points lower at 3,746.6, with 633.5 million shares traded. Most international equity indices lost between 1 per cent and 2 per cent of their value. A sharp correction in US treasuries and european bonds left UK gilts languishing with losses of 1 point at the long end.

Market report, page 28



Sears sells Saxone and Curtess to Hinchliffe

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SEARS, the retail group, yesterday announced the sale of Curtess and Saxone, the high street shoe chains, in a move that will result in 290 job losses over the next year.

A total of 134 Saxone and Curtess stores were sold to Facia, Britain's second largest privately owned retail group, at the weekend, marking the group's ninth acquisition in 18 months. Facia acquired the stores and £10 million of assets from Sears for an undisclosed sum. City watchers estimate that Facia paid up to £5 million for the brand names.

Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman and sole holder of Facia ordinary shares, said: "This acquisition gives us critical mass. I am delighted to have completed the acquisition of Saxone and Curtess both of which are very strong high street brands and dovetail logically with our existing retail outlets." The deal is the second between Facia and Sears. Last August, Facia acquired 245 shops in the Freeman Hardy & Willis, Trueform and Manfield chains from Sears.

Excluded from yesterday's deal are about 40 Curtess and Saxone stores that Sears is retaining and converting into its new formats, which include Shoe Express and Shoe City. The 111-strong Saxone chain and the 124 Curtess stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as part of the retail group's strategy of reducing the number of its shoe formats. At the time of announcing the planned disposal of Saxone and Curtess, Sears said that if it failed to find a buyer within a couple of months the chains would be closed, resulting in the loss of 1,700 jobs.

Yesterday Sears said 90 jobs would go from British Shoe's head office in Leicester while a further 200 would be lost from the logistics division.

Retail king, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3746.6	(-34.7)
Yield	3.82%	
FT-SE A All share	1838.74	(-13.91)
Nikkei	20653.38	(-250.65)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5354.12	(-19.87)*
S&P Composite	634.70	(-1.14)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	109⅝*	(109²⁷/₃₂)
Yield	6.18%*	(6.17%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6⅛%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	108½	(109¹¹/₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5345*	(1.5245)
London:		
$	1.5351	(1.5189)
DM	2.2506	(2.2575)
FFr	7.7420	(7.7475)
SFr	1.8343	(1.8529)
Yen	161.19	(161.93)
£ Index	83.7	(83.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4670*	(1.4820)
FFr	5.0450*	(5.0890)
SFr	1.1955*	(1.2145)
Yen	105.04*	(106.45)
$ Index	95.6	(96.4)

Tokyo close Yen 106.2

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.10	($16.20)

GOLD

London close	$414.75	($415.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Scottish Widows to shed 700 jobs

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

UP TO 700 jobs are to go at Scottish Widows, the UK's fifth-largest life office, in a nationwide cost-cutting exercise that will reduce expenses by 30 per cent.

Most of the redundancies will be at the head office in Edinburgh, where operations are being streamlined and between 500 and 600 jobs will be lost by next January.

A further 100 people will go from the six regional business centres, in Birmingham, Bristol, Croydon, Leeds, London and Manchester.

David Graham, head of marketing, said that all applications for life and pensions policies would be handled in Edinburgh from June 30, and compulsory redundancies would be necessary. "We will try to lose the 600 jobs in head office through retirement, voluntary redundancy and natural wastage, but I expect few members of staff in the regions will want to relocate to Edinburgh," he said.

Mr Graham said this was in line with requests from independent financial advisers that new business processing be concentrated in one centre, although the IFA sales force would not be affected.

Mike Ross, chief executive of Scottish Widows, said that the action followed "a comprehensive examination of all functions at head office". He added: "Our over-riding aim is to drive down costs, while driving up productivity and quality. The measure we are taking will yield a step change in our performance, and will build on our new business success last year in increasing our new premium income by 44 per cent."

Cost-cutting worries dampen BA shares despite record profits

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUBTS about the ability of British Airways to go on reducing costs hit the company's shares despite record profits of £534 million in the nine months to December 31. The shares ended at 502p, down 19p.

Passenger traffic and revenues continued their climb during the third quarter. But what worried the City was the 9.2 per cent surge in group operating expenditure in the quarter, accompanied by a 5.9 per cent rise in unit costs to a level uncomfortably above the projected rate.

BA said the increase reflected investments in its first class and club world services, which are to offer passengers beds and cots on long-haul flights. A third of the cost increase was blamed on exchange rate movements.

But the rise provoked concern that BA might be coming to the end of its ability to cut £150 million from its operating costs every year, although Robert Ayling, the chief executive, is leading a crackdown on costs. Derek Stevens, BA's finance chief, said that while the task remained tough, the savings represented only 3 per cent of BA revenues. Cost reduction programmes were being implemented through engineering, cargo, computers and improved financial management.

Like rival carriers, BA is benefiting from a strong recovery in air travel. Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, said the "industry environment ... remains favourable, with demand running ahead of capacity increases." Bookings had recovered from a January fall-off and "a record profit for the year is anticipated".

The number of passengers carried by BA during the first nine months reached 24.8 million, up 5 per cent on the same months of 1994. Because passengers are tending to fly further, revenues per passenger were up 9.6 per cent on the same nine months of 1994, while BA flew with 74.8 per cent of its seats full, compared with 2.4 per cent a year ago.

The third-quarter figures were down a touch, partly reflecting the disposal of BA's Caledonian charter operation. Even so, BA achieved new third-quarter operating records. Sir Colin expects to derive increasing benefits from its links with USAir, Deutsche BA and TAT European Airlines, its French operation.

Tempus, page 28



Robert Ayling: chief executive, is cracking down on costs

Bombardier opens talks on Fokker

BOMBARDIER of Canada has opened talks with administrators of Fokker, the collapsed Dutch regional aircraft builder (Ross Tieman writes).

The Canadian group, which owns De Havilland, Canadair, Learjet and Short Brothers in Belfast, confirmed discussions after repeatedly insisting it was not interested. The jobs of 1,500 workers at Short Brothers depend upon production of wings and components for the 80-seat and 110-seat jets built by Fokker.

Ben van Schaik, the Fokker chairman, told a press conference at the Singapore airshow that Bombardier was among five companies in talks with Fokker and its administrators.

The others were British Aerospace and Aérospatiale of France, which are partners in regional plane-maker Aero International Regional (AIR); Samsung Aerospace Industries of Korea and Taiwan Aerospace Corporation.

BT ordered to cut charges to rivals

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DON CRUICKSHANK, the Oftel chief, is ordering British Telecom to cut £50 million a year from charges for delivering long-distance calls carried by rival phone companies.

In a landmark determination, the director-general of telecommunications said that Britain's dominant phone company must cut so-called "access deficit" charges — levied to compensate for losses on local exchange lines — by 8 per cent.

At the same time, he ordered BT to cut inland conveyance charges by around 10 per cent. BT will lose around a fifth of its £250 million revenue from other phone companies — chiefly Mercury Communications — and the impact will become ever more significant as rivals eat into BT's share of the UK telephony market.

BT indicated that it will accept the Oftel determination but Peter Howell-Davies, chief executive of Mercury, was "appalled" that rivals would be obliged to share part of the cost of BT's redundancy programme.

The ruling is the first arising from the newly imposed obligation on BT to separate the accounts of its network from the provision of phone services. It confirms Mr Cruickshank's determination to prevent BT from loading inappropriate costs onto businesses where other companies are obliged to share them.

Industry sources suggested the impact on BT would be up to £50 million a year, although analysts believe the company may seek to exaggerate the impact in business as part of the drive to maximise revenues from rival operators. Nonetheless, the cut in charges will make it easier for rivals to attack BT's core business and domestic telephone markets.

☐ Cellnet, the mobile phone company owned 60 per cent by BT and 40 per cent by Securicor, is to cut charges by 30 per cent and switch to per-second billing.

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JOHN CHARCOL

هكذا من الرحبا

Exchange 'needs closer focus'

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IAN PLENDERLEITH, the Bank of England monetary policy director who was asked to become non-executive deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange to help it through its leadership crisis last month, has said the exchange needs to develop "a more closely-focused role".

In a speech in Cardiff last night, Mr Plenderleith gave his opinion of the exchange's future role and the debate over trading systems for the first time. He said the exchange "still has an important contribution to make to our financial system."

The exchange has been accused by critics of attempting to maintain its dominant position in London by keeping out new competitors. But he said it is operating in a world in which technology makes it possible for new trading mechanisms to spring up quickly in response to needs. The exchange's aim, he said, was "to offer competitive services for investors with capital to invest and for companies needing to raise capital. It in no way seeks any special status as of right, nor any exclusive position."

He said it would develop a more closely focused role by concentrating on providing a primary market structure for companies to raise capital and by providing a liquid and fair trading market structure for secondary trading of securities. He reinforced the exchange's position on electronic order-matching as part of its Sequence project. A committee will report to the board on its introduction in March.

Mr Plenderleith was asked to become deputy chairman after Michael Lawrence lost the confidence of the board and was dismissed as chief executive. His appointment is seen as providing reassurance to the City.



JAMES MORGAN

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and He Guangyuan, of China's Ministry of Machinery Industry, yesterday signed an agreement that is expected to lead to collaborative projects in the automotive industry between the two countries. China is expected to be the biggest automotive market in the world by the year 2005, requiring components worth a total of £6 billion up to the end of the century, and £24 billion in service parts

Pharmacia & Upjohn chooses British HQ

BY ERIC REGULY

UPJOHN of America and Pharmacia of Sweden, the pharmaceuticals companies that completed a $13 billion merger in November, unveiled their new British headquarters yesterday and said that the group is considering a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The group, to be called Pharmacia & Upjohn, is, however, unlikely to create many jobs in Britain over the next few years. About 100 senior managers, including John Zabriskie, the chief executive, will be based in Windsor. There are no immediate plans to create employment beyond the head office, such as establishing a research and development centre or an additional manufacturing site.

In fact, overall employment in Britain is likely to decline in the short term. Before the merger was completed, the two companies said they would eliminate 4,000 of their 34,500 jobs worldwide. Total British employment stands at about 600.

Company officials said they could not reveal yet how many British workers would be made redundant. An announcement on global job losses will be made next month.

P&U said it chose a site near London for its new headquarters because the city is emerging as a global pharmaceuticals centre. Mr Zabriskie said: "London was chosen because it is recognized as the world's leading financial and air transportation centre ... and it was the obvious choice for a truly global approach to managing a major pharmaceuticals company."

P&U will be the fourth largest drugs group based in or near London, after Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca. It will have annual turnover of about $7 billion and an R&D budget of $1 billion, putting it in the top ten.


Zabriskie: Windsor base

P&U was created through a tax-free share swap that left the group with $1 billion in cash and no debt. The company said its financial flexibility will allow it to expand by acquiring new products or companies.

The shares are listed on the New York and Swedish exchanges and Bob Salisbury, the chief financial officer, said the group would like to have a London listing. "We're currently looking into the listing requirements," he said.

P&U will have leading positions in cancer research and treatments for metabolic diseases, critical care, infectious diseases and female fertility.

Lloyd's seeks bids to manage Equitas

BY SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYD'S OF LONDON is to invite bids from a group of UK and US fund managers to manage more than £10 billion of assets that could generate fees of up to £50 million a year.

The assets are due to be transferred into Equitas, a new reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's to take over all the insurance market's old-year liabilities. The assets are currently held by Lloyd's syndicates as reserves to meet these future liabilities. However, a proportion of the assets will come from Lloyd's names in the form of a fee payable to Equitas in return for off-loading their liabilities to the reinsurance company.

Equitas, intends to invite about 10 fund managers to bid for a share of the £10 billion-plus contract. A short list is expected to be drawn up in the next couple of months with the selection of managers taking place in April or May.

A large proportion of the insurance market's future liabilities relates to asbestosis and pollution claims from the US. Reflecting the currency of the underlying risk, up to 70 per cent of the assets will be in the form of US dollars.

The future of Equitas has yet to be secured and depends on the go-ahead of several parties, including names and the Department of Trade and Industry. The formation of Equitas is an integral part of a £2.8 billion recovery package that Lloyd's is in the process of forming. The recovery package aims to settle the mass of legal actions taken by names against Lloyd's agents as well as offering financial help to names struggling to meet the bills Equitas will present to them for taking over their old-year liabilities.

For the plan to succeed, Lloyd's needs its names' support. The timing of when names vote on the recovery plan may suffer a delay as Lloyd's ruling council may decide tommorow against asking names to vote when they do not know the final details of their individual bills from Equitas or their share of funds available to settle their litigation. As a result the vote, due before the end of March, may be put off until May.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.12	1.96
Austria Sch	16.93	15.43
Belgium Fr	49.56	45.26
Canada $	2.215	2.055
Cyprus Cypr	0.760	0.705
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mkk	7.53	6.88
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	385.00	370.00
Hong Kong $	12.49	11.49
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lira	2523.00	2388.00
Japan Yen	178.30	160.30
Malta	0.593	0.538
Netherlds Gld	2.689	2.459
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.49	9.69
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	nat.	5.34
Spain Pta	196.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	11.32	10.52
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	refer	92259.0
USA $	1.630	1.500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Inquiry opens into Yorkshire drought

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE inquiry into Yorkshire's drought crisis starts today when the head of the investigation outlines his reference terms and timetable.

Professor John Uff, an expert in engineering law and arbitration, will begin the inquiry — expected to last two weeks — into why the company came close to imposing cuts in supply last year. His report should be made public by the end of April.

Yorkshire Water, whose chairman last year announced his departure, has blamed exceptionally dry weather and topographical difficulties. Critics have claimed a high leakage rate of 33 per cent. Yorkshire places the figure at 26 per cent.

Last year it said it would invest an extra £100 million in improving supplies, including pumping water across from the east of the region to the west. Yorkshire transported tankerloads of water from the Kielder Reservoir to stave off cuts.

Korean jobs boost for South Wales blackspot

BY IOLA SMITH

MORE THAN 300 jobs will be created in an unemployment blackspot in South Wales with a £17 million investment by one of South Korea's largest industrial groups.

The Halla Group, which employs almost 14,000 people worldwide, is to produce forklift trucks, mechanical diggers and other earth-moving equipment for the European market in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. Halle is one of Korea's top international groups, with annual sales in excess of $5.6 billion. Its interests include shipbuilding and aerospace, in addition to automotive equipment and construction.

Halle is the first Korean company to relocate to Wales. The decision was taken after nearly a year of negotiations with the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and the Welsh Office, and the receipt of a special package of grants.

David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the WDA, who visited Halle's headquarters in Seoul last December, said: "The company informed us that it wants to source as many components as possible locally. That means that, as well as the 309 direct jobs to be created, there will be a substantial number of additional jobs created indirectly at the companies that will supply the Merthyr plant."

Merthyr Tydfil, the historic cradle of Britain's steel industry, has fared badly in the last 15 years, losing around 6,000 engineering jobs.

The WDA will build a purpose-designed, 225,000 sq ft factory on the edge of the town for sale to Halla.

BUSINESS

Self-assessment 'will cost firms £500m'

THE compliance cost to employers of implementing self assessment, the new tax regime whereby taxpayers will be required to assess their own liabilities, will exceed £500 million, according to new research by taxation specialists at Coopers & Lybrand. The figure compares with the Inland Revenue's estimate of between £60 million and £122 million.

The accountant also believes additional recurrent costs to employers will exceed £100 million each year, which differs significantly from the Revenue's forecast of between £20 million and £30 million. The total cost equivalent of individual taxpayers' time in reading through and completing the "easy-to-follow, new-look tax return" could amount to £1 billion a year. This estimate is based on the latest draft of the tax return which currently runs to at least 62 pages for an individual with one job and no other income. Martin Benson, a Coopers & Lybrand employee tax specialist, said he thought the £500 million compliance cost "a conservative estimate".

IOCI aims for market

IOC INTERNATIONAL, which designs and manufactures optoelectronic components used to modulate beams of light within a fibre optic system, is applying to join the Alternative Investment Market. The company proposes to raise £5 million through a placing of shares by Henry Cooke, Lumsden, the broker, with trading expected to start next month. Private investors may apply for shares through ShareLink. The company requires funds to finance additional working capital as sales grow, to invest in capital equipment and to repay its preference share capital.

Gold price steadies

ANALYSTS would not be surprised to see the gold price ease back to about $405 an ounce after the recent jump that has lifted the metal by $30 since the beginning of the year. Gold last night closed hardly changed at $414.50 an ounce in what dealers said was a pause for consolidation. Andy Smith, gold analyst at UBS, the broker, said the market continued to be bullish but "after a $10 movement in one week, you would expect a pause for thought". Healthy profit taking was to have been expected after the reported rush of US funds into the metal last week.

Bloomsbury blooms

BLOOMSBURY, the publisher founded in 1986, has announced record book sales for January. The company reported pre-tax losses of £391,000 to June last year but has shown signs of recovery with three books in *The Sunday Times* bestseller list. *Snow Falling on Cedars*, a first novel by David Gutterson, has sold more than 270,000 copies in paperback and, along with the official film edition of *Sense and Sensibility*, is credited with leading the way in Bloomsbury's recovery.

Redland asset offer

REDLAND, the building materials company, may consider asset swaps for parts of its brick-building business. Paul Hewitt, group finance director, said yesterday: "We would certainly look favourably upon a company that could give us something in return apart from just cash." Redland also confirmed that it is looking to restructure its European roof-tile operations. The brick-building division was worth £220 million at December 31, 1994, and pre-tax profits were £24 million. Redland shares fell 9p to 395p.

Buyout agreed at Cray

CRAY ELECTRONICS, the data communications company whose shares collapsed last summer, has conditionally agreed a £3.3 million management buyout of IT Management Programme, its subsidiary. Management at ITMP already owns 25 per cent of their company, which is a subscription-based research business for information technology in industry and commerce. ITMP made an operating profit of £208,000 on turnover of £1.35 million in the year to April 1995. The sale will require shareholder approval.

EU inflation holds at 3%

INFLATION in the European Union was steady at 3 per cent for the year to December, little changed for nearly 12 months, the EU's statistical office reported yesterday. The 12-monthly figure in December 1994 was 3 per cent, and ranged between 3 and 3.2 per cent throughout 1995. Of the EU's 15 members, ten had inflation of less than 3 per cent. Inflation was greater than the average figure in five countries, comprising Britain (3.2 per cent), Portugal (3.4 per cent), Spain (4.3 per cent), Italy (5.7 per cent) and Greece (8.1 per cent).

French demand slowing

FRANCE'S business community expects demand and employment levels to fall for the third successive quarter in the first three months of 1996, a survey from Insee, the statistics office, showed yesterday. The news came only days after the Government said the jobless had exceeded three million in November and December adding that this was likely to deteriorate before a second-half improvement. The quarterly Insee survey of company chiefs, conducted in January, was the most pessimistic on short-term prospects since October 1993.

GEC arm in rail order

LINKE-HOFMANN-BUSCH, GEC Alsthom's German subsidiary, has won a Fr2.5 billion order for 58 suburban trains for the city of Hamburg from German National Railways. GEC Alsthom is a joint venture between Britain's General Electric and Alcatel Alsthom, of France. LHB is the head of a consortium which includes ABB, the engineering group. LHB will make the mechanical parts of the trains and carry out finishing work, while ABB will supply electrical systems. The first trains are due in 1997, and the last in the year 2000.

Two number one slots in broker survey

Warburg 'top for research'

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IN SPITE OF its troubles last year, Warburg — now SBC Warburg — has held on to its reputation as the top investment bank for UK research.

A survey of 213 of the UK's biggest publicly quoted companies put Warburg top for research for the fifth successive year and top for expertise in corporate finance for the ninth year.

But according to the annual broker survey, published by the Securities Institute, the professional association of stockbroking firms, it fell to second place for corporate finance advice, beaten by Cazenove.

After its collapse and subsequent rescue by ING last year, Barings slipped from fifth to tenth place in the rating of banks. NatWest Securities has leapt from fifth place to second in the research league, followed by Kleinwort Benson, which has slipped from second place.

The survey of finance directors and corporate treasurers was undertaken in November last year. It demonstrated the inroads made by US and continental European houses, with Merrill Lynch, formerly Smith New Court, moving from sixth to fourth place, and UBS moving up two notches to sixth place.

BZW fell four places to seventh and James Capel, which held on to its place in the top two between 1986 and 1993, fell from fourth to sixth place.

Roger Moore, Warburg's property analyst, held on to top place for three years in a row as did Fergus MacLeod, NatWest's oil and gas analyst. John Spicer, Warburg's brewing analyst, kept his top place, as did Mark Duffy, its food producers analyst, and Ewan Fraser, James Capel's engineering analyst.

On the financial side, Richard Coleman, of Merrill Lynch, was top banking analyst and his colleague, Stephen Bird, was top insurance analyst.

The survey also showed that finance directors and corporate treasurers were less confident about the prospects for UK industry as a whole this year — the first fall in confidence since 1990 and the lowest since 1992.

Only 45 per cent expressed optimism for UK industry this year, compared with 69 per cent last year.

Pennington, page 27

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

B. Levy and Son (Bournemouth) Limited
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 15th March 1996, to send their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Peter Gotham of Messrs Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 31st January 1996.
Peter Gotham, Liquidator.

BIC International Credit PLC
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Brian Reginald Anthony Callaghan of Chantrey Vellacott, Russell Bedford House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5LF, give notice that on 11 January 1996, I was appointed Liquidator by resolution of members.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 2 March 1996 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned Brian Reginald Anthony Callaghan of Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5LF, the Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally, or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Note: This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated: 31 January 1996.
Brian Reginald Anthony Callaghan, Liquidator.

LECK GROUP LIMITED
(formerly PETROLEUM OPTIONS (1928) LIMITED)
(passing SHAREHOLDERS)
Leck Group Limited which was formerly called Petroleum Options (1928) Limited, ("the Company") has a number of shareholders who have apparently not received communications from the Company addressed to them and whom the Company has not been able to trace.
Article 140 of the Company's Articles of Association provides inter alia, that once the Company has taken steps outlined in the Article, the Company may declare a shareholder as a "missing member" and then arrange for the Company's shares to be purchased at the fair value thereof as determined by the Company's Auditors.
Pursuant to Clause 140 (iii) of the Article, the Company sent a Notice to "Shareholder's Notice") on the 24th November 1995 to all shareholders whom the Company had not previously been able to trace requiring them to communicate in writing with the Company within six weeks thereof notifying the Company of their present address.
This Advertisement has been placed by the Company pursuant to Article 140 (iv) and serves to give notice of the Company's intention to arrange for the sale of the shares in the Company held by the Shareholders to whom a Shareholder's Notice was sent.
If you are a registered Shareholder of the Company or a person entitled to shares in the capital of the Company by transmission and have received a Shareholder's Notice or believe that a Shareholder's Notice may have been sent to you by the Company, please write immediately to the Company at the below address or telephone the Company on 0161-928-8411 to advise of your present address. If you fail to do so, the Company may at any time after one month from today's date arrange for the sale of your shares in the Company as mentioned above.
In the event that your shares in the Company are sold, the net proceeds of sale can subsequently be claimed from the Company.
By Order of the Board
V. Baxter
Chief Executive
Leck Group Limited
Dated 6th February 1996
Leck Group Limited
80 Deansgate Lane
Timperley, Altrincham,
Cheshire
WA14 1BP.

No. 007400 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
In the matter of
Maritime Transport Services Limited
And in the matter of
The Companies Act 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 17 January 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £50,000,000 to £49,950,000 and the cancellation of the shares prohibited account of the above named company in the sum of £18,344,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22 January 1996.
Dated this 17th day of January 1996.
Taylor Joynson Garrett
Solicitors for the above-named Company
50 Victoria Embankment,
Blackfriars, London EC4Y 0DX.
Ref: TGD/JG
Tel: 0171 583 1234

NOTICE OF INTERIM DIVIDEND
In the matter of
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and in the matter of
SENATE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
High Court
number: 1812 of 1995
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is my intention to declare a first dividend to creditors of the above named company. Creditors who have not yet proved are required, on or before 28 February 1996, to send their proof of debt to D L Morgan of Deloitte & Touche, Cedric House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AE, the Joint Liquidator of the company and if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend. The first and final dividend will be declared no later than 6 months from the last date of proving.
Dated 31 January 1996
D L Morgan, Joint Liquidator.

ARBUTHNOT STORAGE LIMITED Company No: 937890
SENTONS SAND & BALLAST COMPANY LIMITED Company No: 926676
CORY ASSOCIATED WHARVES LIMITED Company No: 825630
CORY ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIAL CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED Company No: 1487272
CORY KING TOWAGE LIMITED Company No: 1008914
HULL SLYTH DE SAD TOWE E PRINCE'S LIMITED Company No: 1238448
RET RIRD LIMITED Company No: 1589788
OCEAN GROUP EXPLORATION LIMITED Company No: 1566148
O.I.I. MARINE LIMITED Company No: 1856294
WEBER, SMITH & HOARE (OVERSEAS) LIMITED Company No: 199701
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above Companies intends to make a distribution to the unsecured creditors of the above-named companies, and requires all creditors to submit full details of their claims and proofs of debt to the Liquidator, Roger Smith at KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, on or before Friday 16 March 1996, which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator intends to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any debts not made by the date mentioned.
Note: The Companies are able to pay all known creditors in full.
Dated 25 January 1996
R Smith - Liquidator

CHORDGRANGE LIMITED
T/A ULTRALUX
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3PF on 16th February 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 99 of the.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3PF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED 1st February 1996.
Alan D Baker, Director.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the National Deaf Children's Society Charity Number: 1016583 intends to sell its freehold interest in Carlton House 24 Whitehall Road, Rothwell Haigh, Leeds which is subject to its recommends and any representations regarding the said should be sent by the 8th March 1996 to: Susan Daniels, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8PD.

CONNECT PLUS LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, M S Langley, FCA, Partner of Langley & Partners, Langley House, Park Road, East Finchley, London, N2 8EY was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members on 22nd January 1996.
Dated 22nd January 1996.
M S LANGLEY, Liquidator.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

☐ Special dividend not the answer to demerger doubts ☐ Too bright a view of City research ☐ Bid fever among the TV stocks

Over-egging the Hanson pudding

☐ THE arrival in the market of rumours of a special dividend as a sweetener to the impending break-up of Hanson smacks of desperation, as well as a distinctly un-Hansonish attack of short-termism.

Last week there was no detail on how the balance sheets of Hanson's four constituent parts would measure up post-demerger, and not a whiff of a payment to those loyal investors who have stayed in as the shares have underperformed the market year after year. Now the company has confirmed, that, yes, such a payment is being considered, although nothing has been decided as yet. This begs the obvious question why it was not hinted at in last week's exhaustive briefings. The even more obvious answer is that it has something to do with the lukewarm response in the City to the demerger plans.

If this is the case, then it has not had the desired effect of sparking any great enthusiasm in those plans. Hanson shares were on the slide again yesterday, admittedly in a falling market. All it has done is raise expectations of a payout which the company, if the final decision goes the other way, will have difficulty in playing down again.

The City was always going to be lukewarm. Most analysts are timid creatures and hate change, while the benefits of break-up are not going to become apparent for several years at least. Hanson's dismal share price performance notwithstanding, the company has sufficient clout to square up to the doubters if board and advisers generally believe in their stated strategy.

Hanson's 12p dividend last year was less than twice covered by earnings, and analysts' projections suggest no change in this state of affairs if, as expected, it is held at this level this year or next. Any doubling, as is being suggested, would have to be a one-off that could not be justified on trading grounds.

It would have the advantage of persuading those income funds who are now supposed to be considering dumping their Hanson shares to stay in for now. Their concern is that some or all of the four little demerged Hansons might not be able to hold dividends at the levels they have come to expect.

But a £640 million special payout, as being forecast, would have to come off the balance sheets of those companies, pretty well ensuring that some future dividends have to be cut — for example, at a chemicals business that will sooner or later have to face up to another cyclical downturn.

Sensing this, the income funds might just cut and run as soon as the special dividend is paid, leaving other investors to brave any subsequent fall in the shares. This is presumably not the legacy Lord Hanson wishes to leave, and it is a long way from adding shareholder value. If the strategy was right last week, it is right now and does not need a dollop of syrup to sell it to the faint hearts. Lord Hanson should stand firm.

Chaff and grain among analysts

☐ THOSE capable of casting their minds back as far as the last election, if no further, will be aware of the inadequacies of modern opinion polls.

The annual stockbroker survey by Consensus Research, on behalf of the Securities Institute, confirms the pre-eminence of Warburg, in its latest, Swiss-owned, incarnation. Warburg's lead has even been extended, rather than being whittled away by recent traumas.

PENNINGTON



However, the survey also suggests, somewhat tongue in cheek, that corporate opinion-makers' view of City research has been rising without a break over the past decade. Last year a net "improvement" of 31 per cent was detected, as measured by the difference between those who unaccountably thought the City's work was better and those sensing a deterioration.

All this proves is the statistical tendency towards positive thinking of anyone filling in such a questionnaire — unless its subject is British Gas or British Rail. Corporate Britain is deeply sceptical about the quality of research carried out on companies, if not quite as unimpressed as the fund managers to whom such research is normally marketed.

The experience is the same for any decent-sized company required to put on results briefings for the City. Some 40 or 50 analysts will arrive, far more than the volume of business in that sector can ever support, of whom perhaps a dozen are fairly competent. Three or four may be outstanding, and to them go the six-figure salaries.

The middle-rankers can be left alone to look after themselves and not cause too much damage. The duffers have to be nursemaided by expensive investment relations teams so that their profits forecasts are on the right block and do not cause mass panic when reality and the next set of figures eventually intrude.

The fund managers are more brutal. Nine tenths of broker's circulars go in the bin straight away, and few of the rest are read cover to cover. Those managers know who the three or four heavy-hitters are in each sector and restrict their attention to them. This is why the same names reappear year after year on the annual analysts' ranking surveys — and why these are a far more reliable pieces of statistical research.

Piranhas in the haunted fishtank

☐ THE commercial television companies are heading for another round of frantic thrashing and floundering within their little corporate goldfish bowl. This summer should, with a little help from the Government, see at least a couple lose their much-prized independence.

The cross-holdings between Scottish TV, HTV and the Mirror Group are complex, but they are due for some simplification now Flextech has effectively put Scottish on the market. HTV is already thought to be in its own talks with Michael Green at Carlton; Mirror Group is the most obvious buyer for Scottish.

Any HTV deal needs the passage of the Broadcasting Bill later this year, which by calculating the permitted combinations on size of audience rather than number of franchises will allow Carlton to expand. It could also be frustrated by a rival bidder.

One of the attractions for HTV in talking to Carlton, ironically, is to avoid the attentions of Scottish, which itself has 20 per cent. Flextech, with a similar stake, now wants out, having abandoned plans of a Celtic alliance. Then, of course, Carlton could go for Scottish, so acquiring a chunk of HTV . . .

How reminiscent it all seems of that frantic round of bids and deals a couple of years ago that last carved up the ITV map — and there is also the question of who is stalking Pearson, a big player if one not represented on that map. But under other cross-media ownership rules, Mirror Group has a problem. It can grow no further in TV, because of its 23 per cent share of the national paper market.

David Montgomery, increasingly preferring TV, even topless darts players on *Live TV*, Heaven help us, to the written word, is lobbying hard for a change to the rules. The Mirror chief executive wants the limit raised from 20 to 25 per cent to allow a purchase. His only other option is to sell or close a newspaper — or at least, to threaten such a drastic move in order to put pressure on the Heritage Department.

Dalgety's half-year results fail to live up to City expectations

BY SARAH BAGNALL

DALGETY, the pet-food giant that owns Spillers and Felix, yesterday revealed a sharp fall in underlying pre-tax profits from £60.9 million to £47 million in the six months to December 31.

The results were at the lower end of City expectations, prompting several analysts to trim their full-year forecasts by about £10 million to £125 million.

Including several one-off items that resulted in a £22 million net gain, the pre-tax profit comparison improved to £69.4 million against £60.9 million last time. This was mainly owing to a £62 million profit on Dalgety's sale of its Homepride cooking sauces, Golden Wonder snacks and instant hot snacks.

However, partly offsetting this gain were £29.6 million of reorganisation costs and a £10 million provision for revaluing property.

The reorganisation costs are part of the £70 million that Dalgety is spending on integrating Quaker's European pet-food interests, which it acquired for £442 million last year, with its existing pet-food operations.



John Martyn, Dalgety's finance director, and Richard Clothier, chief executive, yesterday

Richard Clothier, chief executive, disclosed yesterday that the resulting benefits of the programme would be achieved next year — a year earlier than originally forecast. However, analysts questioned whether the annual saving of £40 million would feed through in full to the bottom line.

The City was slightly disappointed by the group's decision to hold its interim dividend at 8.5p but most analysts agreed that this was prudent given the company's current financial state.

The Quaker acquisition helped the group to lift pet-foods profits from £11.6 million to £16.5 million on sales of £387 million, up from £160 million last time. Stripping out the benefits of the Quaker business reveals that Dalgety's original Spillers business suffered a fall in profits. However, Spillers' performance is now on the mend.

Maurice Warren, the chairman, said: "The Quaker business has fully lived up to our expectations and so have the opportunities for cost reduction. Sales of the long-established Spillers products were lower in the period immediately after the acquisition, but I am pleased to say that the sales levels are now recovering."

Agribusiness profits rose 25 per cent to £20.7 million, while food ingredients' profits slipped from £18.1 million to £15.1 million, reflecting higher raw material prices.

The group's food distribution arm saw profits slip from £7.7 million to £6 million.

The dividend is due on June 3 and is payable out of underlying earnings per share of 10.8p, down from 16.9p last time. The shares fell 2p to 413p.

Tempus, page 28

Henderson suffers profit fall

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

HENDERSON Administration, the fund manager, suffered a £10,000 fall in pre-tax profits, to £14.85 million, in the nine months to December 31, in spite of an exceptional profit of £297,000 from selling its interest in The Administration Partnership.

Total funds under management fell from £11.9 billion to £11.37 billion over the nine-month period, but rose from March's £11.1 billion, reflecting positive movements in world markets.

Funds under management in investment trusts increased from £3.6 billion to £4.2 billion. Unit trusts rose from £1.27 billion in December 1994 to £1.35 billion, and Peps were up from £406 million to £510 million. The biggest fall was in institutional funds, down from £4.5 billion to £2.35 billion.

Ben Wrey, chairman, said the final-quarter outcome would depend mainly on world market levels, but Henderson's changed mix of business sources showed the potential "for future growth".

Profits of Waste Management down by £142m

BY MARTIN BARROW

PROFITS of Waste Management International slumped to £23.13 million before tax, from £165.16 million last year, as heavy restructuring costs took their toll.

The company, the UK arm of America's WMX Technologies, charged £123 million against the restructuring, which took place largely in the final quarter. The overhaul included closing offices to cut overheads and withdrawal from markets no longer having potential for significant growth.

There was a loss per share of 0.9p, compared with earnings of 27.8p in the previous 12 months. Again there is no dividend. The shares fell 6p to 332p. When the company obtained a stock market listing in London, in 1992, they were offered at 585p.

Since then, intense competition in a contracting market, particularly for industrial waste, and the increasing burden of complying with tighter regulation, has dogged the company, which now operates in ten European countries and has smaller operations in Asia and Latin America.

Waste Management reported favourably on operations in Britain. The Netherlands and New Zealand. Operations in Italy suffered from political and financial instability and rising labour costs. Business in France suffered from nationwide strikes late in 1995. Waste Management last year made 25 acquisitions, mostly small, to expand its recycling capacity in Britain and Italy in particular.

The company said that it expected cash flow to rise to about £70 million in 1996, from £41 million last year. Approved capital spending for 1996 is £150 million.

Joseph M. Holsten, chief executive, said: "Our performance in 1995 was disappointing. We have, however, taken steps to position ourselves for improved results." The restructuring would let management focus resources in areas that, in the long term, would provide the greatest returns.

Tempus, page 28

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft invites shareholders to the 42nd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 22nd March 1996, at 10.00 am, in the Mercator-Halle, König-Heinrich-Platz, Duisburg.

Agenda

1. Presentation of the adopted annual accounts of the Company and the Group, as well as of the management report on Thyssen AG and the Thyssen Group for the fiscal year 1994/95, together with the report of the Supervisory Board

Resolution on the appropriation of net earnings

It is proposed to pay a dividend of DM 10.00 for each share of DM 50.00 par value.

2. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Executive Board
3. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Supervisory Board
4. Election of statutory auditors
5. Election of Supervisory Board members
6. Resolution on the creation of authorized capital I and a corresponding amendment to the Articles of Association
7. Resolution on the creation of authorized capital II and on the amendment to the Articles of Association
8. Resolution on the authorization to issue bonds with warrants, the creation of potential capital, as well as on the amendment to the Articles of Association
9. Other amendments to the Articles of Association

According to Article 13 of our company's Articles of Association, such shareholders are entitled to participate in the Annual General Meeting as, on or before 15th March 1996, have deposited, and left there until the close of the Annual General Meeting, their shares with the deposit bank, SBC Warburg a division of Swiss Bank Corporation in Great Britain.

Düsseldorf, February 1996 *The Executive Board*

THYSSEN

THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

CentreGold in bid negotiations

SHARES in CentreGold were suspended at 37p yesterday after the troubled computer games distributor said it was in advanced negotiations concerning a possible offer for the company.

CentreGold first confirmed persistent City rumours of a possible bid for the company in December, when the board declared that a number of parties were interested in buying all or part of its business, but nothing has been heard since then.

The shares were floated on the stock market in October 1993 at 125p each. In 1995 it issued two profit warnings and indicated that it would pass the final dividend.

Takeover talk sends Scottish TV higher

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Scottish Television, the ITV company in central Scotland, rose to a new high yesterday as rumours circulated that it was a takeover target (See Pennington, this page).

City analysts said the shares rose because the market now believed that Flextech and Mirror Group, which each own 20 per cent of Scottish Television, would welcome a takeover at the right price.

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, would say only that "at the end of the day, there's a price for everything".

Scottish Television shares rose 36p to 566p, breaking their previous high of 530p, on volume of 292,000. SBC Warburg is to publish an investment note this week that is said to value the company at £6 a share.

The most likely buyers are Granada, Carlton and MAI, each of which will have room to expand under the ownership rules of the new Broadcasting Bill. Under the proposed legislation, Mirror Group would be prevented from buying Scottish Television.

HTV, the ITV company in the West of England and Wales, would not comment yesterday on reports that it was in merger talks with Carlton. There is speculation that Carlton will attempt to buy Scottish Television if any talks with HTV break down.

Computer company reshapes itself

Amstrad to shed 150 jobs

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

AMSTRAD, the computer company, is to cut up to 150 jobs in a reorganisation of its consumer electronics division.

Amstrad Trading, which concentrates on retail sales, will be slimmed down to improve efficiency and will work on developing new product lines. Amstrad Direct, which was launched only last year, will be relocated at Alperton, northwest London, and will be managed as an independent subsidiary by Viglen, Amstrad's computer-making subsidiary. Amstrad Direct's factory in Shoebury will be closed by May of this year.

Amstrad's consumer electronics division has not made a profit for three years and last year disclosed a £16 million loss. In December, David Rogers, chief executive, resigned over the plans to reorganise the consumer division.



Sugar: aiming to move staff

After the restructuring is complete, Viglen will continue to concentrate on the professional market while Amstrad Direct will remain focused on the consumer market. Amstrad said that it will attempt to relocate staff within the company, but it predicts a total reduction in staffing levels of about 150. There will be further job losses in the European subsidiaries.

Alan Sugar, the chairman, said: "The market trend in consumer electronics means that only lean organisations who concentrate on their core skills will flourish.

"This reorganisation puts Amstrad Trading and Amstrad Direct on an equal basis to their respective competitors."

Amstrad shares closed up 1.5p, at 187p.

MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1995
(Unaudited)

	$ million (except per share figures) 1995	1994*
Total Revenue	$3,770.3	$3,435.0
Total Expense	3,075.4	2,764.7
Operating Income	694.9	670.3
Income Before Income Taxes	649.8	631.5
Net Income	402.9	371.5
Net Income Per Share	$5.53	$5.05
Dividends Paid Per Share	$2.975	$2.80

**Reflects the adoption, effective January 1, 1994, of SFAS No. 112, "Employers' Accounting for Postemployment Benefits."*

Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. is a professional services firm with insurance and reinsurance broking, consulting and investment management businesses. More than 25,000 employees worldwide provide analysis, advice and transactional capabilities to clients in over 80 countries. Our operating companies in the UK are:

Bowring Marsh & McLennan
C.T. Bowring & Co. (Insurance)
Carpenter Bowring
William M. Mercer
Victor O. Schinnerer & Company
The Frizzell Group
Putnam Europe
National Economic Research Associates
Mercer Management Consulting

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers braced for a fall as bonds continue slide

THE London stock market is likely to suffer a major correction before too long. That is the conclusion of a growing number of brokers who have become increasingly worried by the erratic behaviour of the market in recent weeks.

Bonds on both sides of the Atlantic and equities in London fell sharply yesterday, while gold continued to trade at a five-year high. Gilt-edged prices have suffered heavy losses during the past couple of weeks despite a further softening of interest rates.

Steve Scott, gilts analyst at Kleinwort Benson, says economists are becoming increasingly alarmed about growth, suggesting that inflationary pressure is still giving cause for concern. "Economic growth is just not compatible with the fall in bond yields seen of late", he adds.

It is no doubt something Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will address tomorrow at their monthly economic meeting.

Meanwhile, a leading equity trader also warned: "Bond markets are on the slide again and the equity market is too high. The day of reckoning is just round the corner. I think we should be bracing ourselves for a major correction of several hundred points in the short term".

He pointed out that the last major correction began on February 7, 1994, which preceded a quarter-point cut in base rates to 5.25 per cent. It was to be another 18 months before the index regained those levels.

In the event, yesterday's losses in the bond market and an opening setback for the Dow Jones average on Wall Street left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 34.7 points at 3,746.6. Turnover reached 722 million shares.

There was the usual clutch of bid stories doing the rounds. The first suggested that Pearson was about to be bid for by Viacom, the US entertainments group. Both companies have interests in publishing and television and Pearson would make an ideal break-up situation. **Pearson** rose 15p to 670p.

Scottish Television leapt 36p to a new peak of 566p on talk of a possible bid. The Daily Mirror holds a 20 per cent stake in the company, with the FMR Corporation



Scottish Television, makers of *Taggart*, rose 36p

accounting for a further 7.67 per cent. Speculators say the bid is more likely to come from Carlton Communications, which holds the London area independent television weekday franchise. **Carlton** eased 3p to £10.67, while the Mirror Group rose 4p to 195p.

British Aerospace dropped 24p to 875p after Kleinwort Benson, the broker, altered its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold". BAe is also being mentioned as a possible bidder for Fokker, the troubled Dutch aircraft-maker.

Sears, the retailer, firmed 1½p to 97p after announcing the sale of Saxone and Curtess shoe shops to Facia, the fast growing retail chain headed by Stephen Hinchcliffe. Only last year Facia acquired the Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform and Manfield shoe shop chains. Sears says it will now concentrate its efforts on its British Shoe subsidiary.

Ferguson International touched 192p before ending the session 21p lower at 196p after warning of a profits shortfall. The labels and hangers group said it would struggle to exceed £11.5 million, down from the previous year's £11.7 million. The group is currently looking for a buyer for its Hangers business. Last year shares of Ferguson reached a peak of 351p.

Confirmation of a profits setback left **Dalgety** 2p easier at 413p. Pre-tax profits in the first six months fell from £60.9 million to a bottom-of-the-range £47 million. The decision simply to maintain the 8.5p dividend and the news that restructuring charges will now be carried through to the second half caused a few raised eyebrows.

A 30 per cent leap in British Airway's third-quarter pre-tax profits to £104 million and an encouraging view of prospects failed to impress the City. The shares ended the session 19p down at 502p, with brokers becoming increasingly concerned about rising costs.

Profits for nine months have grown to £534 million, with brokers forecasting £580 million for the full year.

Bardon firmed 1p to 40p, with the speculators still looking for a bidder to emerge. Those mentioned as potential suitors include **Camas**, down 1p at 83p, and **RMC Group**, 11p off at £10.21.

Vodafone fell 6½p to 237½p on learning that Cellnet, a rival mobile phone network operator, was planning to cut call charges. Cellnet says the move could lop as much as 30 per cent off bills. The move is expected to intensify the current price war. Cellnet is owned by **BT**, down 6p at 356½p ahead of figures tomorrow, and **Securicor**, unchanged at £16.20.

The announcement of a major reorganisation and job losses lifted **Amstrad** 1½p to 187p. About 150 jobs are set to be shed, mostly at the group's headquarters in Essex. Plans are also afoot to rationalise the Amstrad Trading and Amstrad Direct divisions to cut costs and improve competitiveness.

Quality Software Products continued to lose ground after last week's profits warning, dropping a further 27p to 383p.

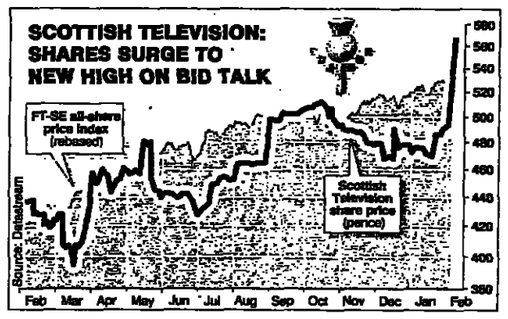
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The slide continued, with losses stretching to more than £1 at the longer end. Dealers said the falls reflected weaker overseas bond markets. Certainly, the recent fall in yields is now starting to unsettle investors.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt tumbled £1$^{3}/_{16}$ to £108½ in heavy trading that saw 96,000 contracts traded.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 tumbled £1$^{3}/_{8}$ to £99$^{3}/_{4}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 dropped £1$^{7}/_{32}$ to £103$^{5}/_{8}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street continued Friday's decline and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 19.87 points lower at 5,354.12.

Hanson shares lost a further 4½p at 192p after last week's announcement that the group is being split. NatWest Securities, the broker, is urging clients to sell. Analyst Chris Ralph calculates that the total amount of dividend paid out will be lower once the demerger has been completed.



World Markets

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5354.12 (-19.87)
S&P Composite 634.70 (-1.14)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20653.38 (-250.65)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11484.12 (+14.72)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 498.37 (-6.22)

Sydney:
AO 2271.7 (-21.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2419.01 (-33.05)

Singapore:
Straits 2484.01 (+15.84)

Brussels:
General 8991.85 (-65.52)

Paris:
CAC-40 1985.59 (-36.62)

Zurich:
SEA Gen 732.30 (-9.20)

London:

FT 30	2758.6 (-26.2)
FT 100	3746.6 (-34.7)
FT-SE Mid 250	4136.4 (-15.8)
FT-SE-A 350	1864.1 (-15.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1548.16 (-20.68)
FT A All-Share	1838.74 (-13.91)
FT Non Financials	1940.84 (-14.91)
FT Fixed Interest	113.45 (-0.45)
FT Govt Secs	94.19 (-0.69)
Bargains	36258
SEAQ Volume	724.7m
USM (Datastrm)	199.73 (-1.53)
US$	1.5327 (+0.0137)
German Mark	2.2526 (-0.0058)
Exchange Index	83.7 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£/ECU	1.1932
£/SDR	1.0436
RPI	150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

Ballynamray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns (120)	120	...
Dmatek	73	- 3
MediaKey (60)	65	...
Nthn Petim Wrts	8	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	56	+ 1
SkyePharma B Wts	8	...
Viewinn	200	...
Berkeley Gp n/p (435)	91	...
Oxford Mol n/p (235)	96	- 13

RISES:

Stanley Leisure	360p (+9p)
British Borneo	428p (+9p)
MDIS	66p (+11p)
Onel	126p (+15p)
Cons Murchison	142p (+10p)
Scot TV	566p (+36p)
MMT Comp	275p (+12p)
IMI	332p (+12p)
CMG	439p (+15p)
Br Polythene	692p (+20p)
Ulster TV	1283p (+30p)
Pearson	670p (+15p)
Psion	773p (+10p)
Celltech	482p (+7p)
Danka Bus Systems	640p (+11p)

FALLS:

Stylo	90p (-15p)
Cluff Res	130p (-30p)
Ferguson Intl	196p (-21p)
MAID	169p (-13p)
Renison	315p (-12p)
British Airways	502p (-19p)
Swire Pacific	582½p (-22p)
Chiroscience	285p (-9p)
Scotia	590p (-19p)
Bostrom	275p (-8p)
Mitel	392p (-11p)
British Aerospace	875p (-24p)
Candover	479p (-13p)
Bluebird Toys	324p (-8p)
Azlan	550p (-13p)
Farnell Elect	654p (-15p)
Standard Chart	635p (-14½p)
Redland	395p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 32

BA's flying costs

AIRLINE costs are notoriously difficult to control, and no one knows that better than British Airways. The world's most profitable airline had all its ducks lined up in a row with revenues, load factor and yield all showing comfortable increases. But even BA cannot afford to be complacent, and, as if to cock a snook at the management for its bravado, employee costs shot up in the third quarter. Add to that higher selling costs, a pension revaluation and increased rents, and BA's operating profit grew less than 3 per cent in the last quarter, causing the shares to slide.

The reaction is excessive but it highlights the extent to which BA is exposed to rising costs. During the recession, BA made deep cuts in operating costs, but as the market picked up, the company found itself exposed. Customer service is an area where an airline cannot afford to be seen to be understaffed and BA has beefed up employee numbers.

A high level of variable costs not only means more smiling people in navy blazers but more commission and discounts to travel agents as the passenger numbers increase. In response, BA needs to target its fixed administrative overhead as aggressively as it once cut operating costs.

Depsite their hi-tech image, airlines cope with huge volumes of paperwork, and an operation as large as BA has an army of 1,000 staff dealing with ticket accounting. The laborious process of matching tickets and checking for fraud is one that could be outsourced, along with other administrative functions. By keeping its nose to the ground rather than in the air, BA could really cut costs.

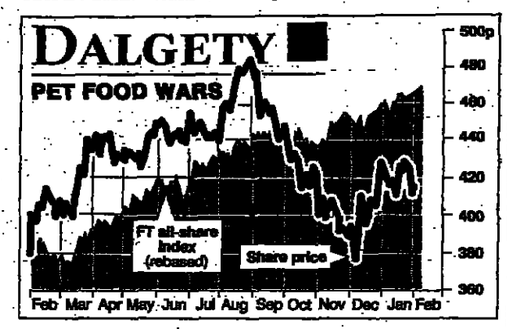
Dalgety

NOTHING Dalgety said yesterday was enough to remove the question mark over last year's £442 million purchase of Quaker's European pet-food business. Even news that £40 million of cost savings will be achieved in full next year, rather than the year after, failed to dispel the gloom. Instead, pessimists point to a pet-food price war.

When Dalgety signed the deal many thought they had overpaid. Yesterday analysts were hunting for signs that they were right or wrong but the company revealed little. The restructuring programme is ahead of schedule but there is uncertainty that the full benefits will fall through to the bottom line. The competition's reaction to the takeover — to initiate their own cost-cutting programmes — hardly helped to instil confidence, while the launch by Sainsbury's of its own-label brand signalled costly price wars.

The interim results showed that Dalgety's original Spillers business had a tough time. This was expected and a recovery is now under way but some of the remaining operations produce lacklustre results.

Dalgety shares are trading on about 19 times future earnings, a hefty premium to the sector and much of the recovery has already been factored in to the share price. Dalgety will have to show more than the initial cost-savings to sustain the rating at a time when prices are under pressure. That will prove a difficult task.



WMI

A LESS than pristine set of results from WMI, the waste management company, has left shareholders reeling. WMI has never come close to realising the promised 20 per cent growth rate, nor has it matched the original 582p flotation price. Initially, it profited from the brief fashion for "green" stocks, but the shares are now beached, some 250p below the offer price.

Yesterday's results followed a familiar pattern as profits continue to dive in spite of a rise in revenue, helped by a series of small acquistions. The company wheeled out the usual excuses, blaming political and financial difficulties in Italy and France for its poor performance. WMI is over-reliant on the Italian market, which accounts for nearly 20 per cent of sales.

The restructuring plan, for which the company took a £123 million charge, should help to alleviate some of the problems by the end of the year. But with WMX, its parent, having an 80 per cent stake, the needs of private shareholders are unlikely to be top priority. For the time being, WMI's shares will continue to trawl the gutter.

Property derivatives

NEVER a year goes by without another attempt to create a property futures market. The last serious effort ended with a minor scandal and considerable egg on the face of London Fox, the former futures and options exchange, but that is not a reason to denigrate the proposed Real Estate Index Market (REIM).

There is, in theory, enormous need for an investment product that injects liquidity into the physical property market. Shares in property companies are not a useful proxy, in part because they are overly affected by sentiment towards equities but also because shares are as much a punt on management as bricks and mortar.

A property futures contract would theoretically mirror the market directly, allowing the purchase of a contract to gauge his exposure without the intervention of an expensive management team, or payment of an agent's commission.

There are problems, however, that will still hamper creation of a liquid market. Property is not as volatile a market as equity shares. Absence of frequent trades in the underlying bricks and mortar means that evidence of movement in values is patchy, straining the credibility of any index. Moreover, scarce information means that sentiment tends to move one way, leaving little scope for a two-way market in futures. The members of the REIM working group look impressive, but unless they are prepared to back words with cash, the new market will not happen.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	904-903	May	1019-1015
May	925-924	Jul	unq
Jul	946-945	Sep	—
Sep	966-965	Dec	—
Dec	985-984		
Mar	1006-1004	Volume: 6314	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2045-2040	Nov	1785-1782
May	1875-1870	Jan	1785-1780
Jul	1825-1815	Mar	1780-1740
Sep	1800-1795	Volume: 2974	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	312.5-12.1
Spot: 380.0		Dec	304.0-03.5
Mar	369.0-68.5	Mar	301.5-00.1
May	355.0-54.5	May	298.5-98.0
Aug	338.8-38.3	Volume: 1439	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	105.62	130.96	118.09
(+/-)	-3.32	+0.64	-1.51
Eng/Wales:	105.62	131.55	118.65
(+/-)	-3.32	+0.81	-1.19
(No.)	-15.0	+26.0	+16.0
Scotland:	unq	128.76	115.21
(+/-)	—	-0.45	-3.17
(%)	—	-11.0	+18.0

IC15-LOR (London 4.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.90	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.60	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.10	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.55	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.20	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 170 (+2)	O: 172 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	175 (+5)	178 (+7)
Non EEC IH Feb	172 (+4)	175 (+5)
Non EEC IH Mar	160 (+3)	162 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (n/c)	99 (n/c)
Naphtha	167 (-2)	169 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Feb	169.50-69.75	May	146.25-46.50
Mar	155.75-56.00	Jun	145.50-45.75
Apr	149.25-49.50	Vol. 34720	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.57-16.59	Jun	15.67-15.70
Apr	16.04-16.05	Jul	15.58 BID
May	15.78-15.80	Vol: 41456	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	132.45	Mar	113.75
May	124.25	May	115.50
Jul	126.30	Sep	107.90
Sep	111.75	Nov	110.25
Nov	113.25	Jan	113.50
Volume: 623		Volume: 42	

BARLEY (close £/t)

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	169.0	174.0
May	unq	197.5
	Volume 82	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Feb 105.75-106.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1400	1375	1399
Mar 96	1410	1361	1385
Apr 96	1410	1375	1388
Jul 96	1300	1280	1303
Vol: 229 lots		Open interest: 4154	
	Index 1481 -3		

(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Reuter Wolff

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2560-2562.0	3mth: 2511.0-2512.0	Vol: 123?450
Lead ($/tonne)	762.00-763.00	761.50-762.00	522975
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1053.0-1053.5	1071.5-1074.0	566475
Tin $/tonne	6160.0-6165.0	6200.0-6202.0	22335
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1583.0-1584.0	1605.0-1606.0	1509475
Nickel ($/tonne)	8400.0-8405.0	8500.0-8510.0	105364

FT-SE INDEX (*3750)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Feb	113½	69	32	11½	3	1
Mar	133	95	64	38½	21½	11
Apr	143½	111	81	58½	39½	24
May	161	129½	100	76½	55	39
Jun	—	147	—	97	—	90½
Puts						
Feb	4	11	29½	56½	105	155
Mar	21½	33½	53	79	114	157½
Apr	40½	58	77½	100½	136	171½
May	54½	72½	93	119	148½	182½
Jun	—	85½	—	132	—	194½

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Allid Dom	30½	36½	41	9	23½	26
(*515)	550	8	17½	19	37½	56
Argyll	30	22½	29	32	6	14
(*313)	330	7½	14	18	21½	31
ASDA	100	8	11	13	3½	5½
(*103)	110	3½	6½	8½	9	10½
Boots	600	52	63	50½	11½	21
(*614)	650	9	18½	27	39½	49½
Br Airways	500	25½	34	40	15	26
(*502)	550	6	13½	19½	49	57
BP	500	41½	51	56	4½	9
(*571)	550	11	22½	28½	25	30½
Br Steel	160	16½	20½	21	2½	7½
(*172)	180	5½	9½	11	11½	18½
C & W	460	24½	34	42	17½	27
(*460)	500	10½	18½	25½	43½	51½
CU	600	26½	38	45	23	30½
(*611)	650	6½	18	25½	58½	63
ICI	900	39	53½	63½	22	29½
(*927)	950	13½	29½	39½	90½	57
Kingfishr	550	39½	46½	55	10	17½
(*528)	550	12	22	31	37	44½
Land Sec	600	31½	39½	43	6½	10
(*619)	650	7½	13½	18½	33	48
M & S	420	21½	29½	35	8	16
(*428)	460	4½	10	15½	32½	40
Nat West	650	25	42½	49½	24½	33
(*663)	700	8	22	29	59	64
Sainsbury	360	34½	39	43½	3	8½
(*387)	390	14½	20	26½	13	21
Shell	850	26½	36	46½	22½	29
(*858)	900	6½	16	24½	57½	61½
Smkl Bch	700	38½	54	64½	13½	23
(*721)	750	14	28	39½	41	49½
Storehse	280	29½	34	36½	4	8½
(*298)	300	14½	22½	25½	11	16½
Trafalgar	30	5	7	9½	3	5
(*32)	35	3	5	6½	6	8
Unilever	1300	63	90	80½	28½	41
(*1317)	1350	18	34½	54	59	67½
Zeneca	1200	71½	101½	120	26½	43½
(*1248)	1250	42½	74½	92½	47	66½

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	16	30	39½	4½	11	20
(*431)	460	1	11½	20½	30	37½	41½
Ladbroke	160	19	24½	31	1	6	12
(*178)	180	5½	13½	21	7½	17	21½
Utd Biscs	260	10	16½	22	3	12½	16
(*246)	260	2	7½	13½	15	25	28

February 5, 1996 Tot: 29010 Call: 13867
Put: 15143 FT-SE Call: 4185 Put: 5097
*Underlying security price.

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	460	35½	43	4½	11½	16
(*485)	500	12½	20	28	21½	29½
Thames W	550	22	32½	37	13½	28
(*553)	600	5½	13	17	47	65
Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	27½	38	46½	3	17½
(*574)	600	3½	14	24	28½	47
BTR	330	7	12½	18	3	13½
(*333)	360	0	3	7	26½	35½
Br Aero	850	33½	58	82½	8	29½
(*874)	900	8½	34	56½	32½	55½
Br Telcm	330	22½	35½	41	0	3
(*356)	360	4	16	23½	7	13
Cadbury	500	41½	48½	59½	0½	12½
(*539)	550	6½	19½	33	16½	36
Coloroll	420	32½	43½	48½	0	6
(*456)	460	6	17½	24½	8½	27½
GEC	360	10½	21½	28	4	11½
(*366)	390	0½	8	14	24	28
Hanson	191	6½	—	—	2½	—
(*194)	211	0½	—	—	17	—
LASMO	160	9½	14½	10	15	6
(*167)	180	1	6	10½	13	16½
Lucas	300	6	13½	18½	4	10½
(*201)	220	0½	5½	10½	18½	22½
Pilkingtn	191	7½	15½	20	2	6½
(*196)	210	0½	7	11½	14	17
Prudential	420	19	28½	38	2½	10
(*436)	460	1	10½	20	25	40
Redland	380	10½	22	29	9½	20
(*395)	420	0½	10	15½	29½	40
R-Royce	200	12½	17½	23	2	7
(*211)	220	2	8	13	11	18½
Tesco	280	7½	14½	19	5	13½
(*282)	300	1	6½	10½	18½	26½
Vodafone	220	19	27	32	1	6½
(*238)	240	5	15	21	7	14½
Williams	330	15½	23	26½	1	9½
(*343)	360	1	7½	12	17	27½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3775.0	3777.0	3751.0	3763.0	11893
Previous open interest: 65486	Jun 96	3773.0	3773.0	3773.0	3765.5	1
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				4150.0	0
Previous open interest: 3307	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.88	93.89	93.85	93.87	10765
Previous open interest: 301880	Jun 96	94.11	94.11	94.05	94.08	21508
	Sep 96	94.09	94.09	94.03	94.03	17079
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.80	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.78	96.79	96.77	96.78	29896
Previous open interest: 1099102	Jun 96	96.85	96.87	96.78	96.80	47571
Long Gilt	Mar 96	109-11	109-14	108-13	108-16	96744
Previous open interest: 144451	Jun 96				107-25	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	120.05	120.13	120.00	120.13	2847
	Jun 96	118.52	118.58	118.49	118.61	1235
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	99.26	99.34	98.15	98.34	326362
Previous open interest: 251843	Jun 96	98.46	98.46	97.40	97.52	3304
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.45	95.45	95.41	95.45	730
Previous open interest: 25113	Jun 96	95.55	95.57	95.52	95.55	616
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.06	98.07	97.99	98.02	5346
Previous open interest: 60273	Jun 96	97.92	97.93	97.77	97.84	12003
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	111.70	111.70	110.86	111.40	53739
Previous open interest: 67987	Jun 96	111.01	111.01	110.80	110.92	308

Series	Mar	Jun	Mar	Jun
Fixed:	260 5	9½ —	0½	0½ —
(*265)	280 0	0 —	15	18 —

Series	Feb	May	Feb	May
Eastro Gp	950	28	41½	— 0½ 0½ —
(*975)	1000	1	6 —	25 25 —

Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Nest Pwr	420	40	52	57½	2	9
(*458)	460	12½	27	34½	14½	26
Scot Pwr	360	35½	44	49	1	4½
(*391½)	390	13	27½	29½	8½	14

MONEY RATES

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6%. Finance Hse 6%
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 6%. Low 5%. Week fixed: 6%
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth: 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝
Overnight: open 6⅛, close 5⅞.					
Local Authority Depo:	6%	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.27	n/a	5.17	5.03	4.95
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-4⅞	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4-3
French Franc:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞	5-4
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1⅝	1⅝-1½	1½-1⅜	1⅝-1½	2-1
Yen:	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-⅜	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Gold 3)

Bullion: Open $415.80-416.20 Close: $414.50-415.00 High: $416.15-416.65
Low: $414.05-414.55 AM: $415.25 PM: $414.80

Krugerrand: $416.00-414.00 (£269.50-271.50)

Platinum: $431.50 (£282.10) Silver: $5.82 (£3.785) Palladium: $141.00 (£92.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD

Mkt Rates for Feb 5

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5188-2.5344	2.5188-2.5221	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Brussels	46.200-46.540	46.200-46.300	13-9pr	36-31pr
Copenhagen	8.6930-8.7600	8.6930-8.7150	1½-1pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9668-0.9707	0.9680-0.9705	11-8pr	29-24pr
Frankfurt	2.2491-2.2635	2.2491-2.2522	¼-¼pr	1½-1pr
Lisbon	233.50-234.12	233.50-234.12	23-50dis	87-131dis
Madrid	189.92-190.91	189.92-190.20	40-90dis	118-135dis
Milan	2402.4-2413.8	2407.6-2411.6	6-7dis	19-22dis
Montreal	2.1056-2.1155	2.1125-2.1155	0.20-0.12pr	0.40-0.32pr
New York	1.5290-1.5356	1.5346-1.5356	0.12-0.10pr	0.35-0.33pr
Oslo	9.8300-9.8910	9.8300-9.8450	1½pr	2½-1½pr
Paris	7.7360-7.7820	7.7960-7.7500	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Stockholm	10.631-10.691	10.631-10.654	½-dis	½-dis
Tokyo	160.80-161.81	161.05-161.30	½pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.804-15.910	15.804-15.831	½-dis	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.5729-1.5963	1.5829-1.5857	¼-¼pr	2-1½pr

Source: Extel

Premium = pr. Discount = dis.

Australia	1.3227-1.3236
Austria	10.33-10.34
Belgium (Com)	30.24-30.25
Canada	1.3773-1.3778
Denmark	5.6880-5.6910
France	5.0540-5.0590
Germany	1.4700-1.4710
Hong Kong	7.7304-7.7314
Ireland	1.5803-1.5816
Italy	1569.25-1569.75
Japan	105.06-105.11
Malaysia	2.5463-2.5472
Netherlands	1.6468-1.6473
Norway	6.4228-6.4303
Portugal	152.66-152.83
Singapore	1.4138-1.4148
Spain	124.20-124.28
Sweden	6.9472-6.9572
Switzerland	1.2015-1.2025

Argentina peso	1.5312-1.5338
Australia dollar	2.0246-2.0273
Bahrain dinar	0.5705-0.5825
Brazil real	1.4973-1.5015
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7100-0.7200
Finland markka	5.6507-5.7016
Greece drachma	370.00-377.00
Hong Kong dollar	11.8376-11.8468
India rupee	3471.0-3539.0
Indonesia rupiah	57.03-57.99
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4525-0.4625
Malaysia ringgit	3.8930-3.9031
New Zealand dollar	2.2602-2.2634
Pakistani rupee	52.48 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5075-5.6315
Singapore dollar	2.1650-2.1679
S Africa rand (com)	5.5300-5.6320
U A E dirham	5.5575-5.6815

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

3I	904	Land Secs	1,500
ASDA Gp	9,100	Legal & Gn	405
Abbey Nt	1,600	Lloyds TSB	4,800
Allied D

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Taking over at Equitas

BELEAGUERED Lloyd's names, whose *Lime Street* "head office" has been sold to a German property fund, can only hope that good luck runs in threes. Equitas, the company being established to reinsure the Lloyd's 1992 and prior liabilities, has appointed the redoubtable Gisela Gledhill as company secretary and corporate counsel. Gledhill, a barrister educated at Vienna and London universities, joins Equitas after three years at Wellcome, which was taken over by Glaxo last year. She went to Wellcome from Consolidated Gold Fields, which was taken over by Hanson in 1989. On this form, is Equitas in line for a takeover?

PR job

THE questionnaire for *PRWeek*'s fifth annual salary survey of pay and perks within its profession is illuminating. Boxes in which to tick basic salary start at £12,000 and run up to £100,000 plus. In the section "What percentage was your last salary increase", there is a space to tick 30 per cent, and there is a box to tick if you have had three or more salary increases in the past year. As for how you rate job satisfaction, respondents can go for "downright exploited" if so inclined.



Train spotters

AFTER the problems that have halted the Government's privatisation of the "Misery Line", I have to report a case of high dudgeon on the Metropolitan line which is bemusing commuters to the City from the stockbroker belt of Northwood. The *New Scientist*'s Feedback column recently reported seeing two announcements outside Northwood's ticket office "with an explanation in brackets for the slow witted".

They were: "08.00 Baker Street — trip failure (a safety brake type of thingy)", and "08.05 Watford — crew incomplete (driver ..... off)".

Northwood's ticket office is not amused, and the latest message on its otherwise friendly board reads: "Due to false allegations that have been made in a recent edition of *The New Scientist* magazine about train information given at this station, no further information will be given until we have received a full apology from the editor of the magazine". City types on Northwood's platform can't wait for the next train, or the next edition of *The New Scientist*.

Running on empty

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, faced every signatory's nightmare yesterday. The dapper Minister was poised to sign a memorandum of understanding between Britain and China on automotive matters at a ceremony at Lancaster House when the pen ran out of ink. He had been handed a Parker fountain pen from the Board of Trade's "pen set" used for DTI signing ceremonies which (temporarily) let him down. However, as to be expected of a Minister of State, Lang immediately reached into his breast pocket for his own fountain pen to complete his side of the bargain.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Cable lays out the cash but fails to home in on success

Pipeline TV's high hopes are unfulfilled. Erie Reguly looks at why



David Montgomery, left, and Kelvin MacKenzie, behind Mirror Group's Live TV and the channel's news bunny

There's little doubt that cable company executives woke this morning in a worse mood than usual. Call it resentment borne of envy. The record interim profits expected today from BSkyB, the satellite television broadcaster, has only reinforced the lack of success in their own industry.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*, is essentially in the same business as the cable companies. They all supply programming — ranging from Live TV to the Disney Channel — to paying subscribers across the land. The difference is that BSkyB, which dominates programming and has not been saddled with billions of pounds of construction expense, is making a fortune while the cable companies are mired in debt and losses.

John Foley of Convergent Decision Group, a broadcasting research boutique, said: "One has to look at cable as the channel tunnel project of the TV industry. The payoff might not come until the next millennium."

To say that cable companies are in trouble is no exaggeration. The share prices of the seven cable companies that were floated in London and the US last year have rarely risen above their issue prices. In recent weeks, several American investors, notably funds run by American Express, have bailed out, pushing prices down to new lows. Nynex CableComms, the second largest cable company, was floated last June at 137p. Its shares recently slipped to 85½p and are now trading at about 95p.

Since the cable companies have no earnings, pay no dividends, are less than half way through a £12 billion construction programme, and are pioneers in a new industry, the City has had a difficult time valuing them. The share prices, in other words, may fall even further. David Miller, finance director of General Cable, said: "No one knows if they're cheap enough to buy now."

The root of the problem is the dismal operating figures. After three years of energetic shovel-and-spade work, cable passes by some six million homes in Britain and Northern Ireland. But only one in five of those homes subscribes to the TV channels on offer. Cable telephony has had somewhat more success, with one in four taking the service.

Even the most optimistic cable executives are unhappy with the figures, especially since they have shown little improvement over the past year. Nynex's cable-TV penetration, for example, has been stuck at less than 20 per cent since late 1994. The consensus now is that cable penetration rates in Britain will never reach levels found in America, where two-thirds of homes in franchised areas take the service. Last year, the cable industry was saying 50 per cent cable-TV penetration was realistic. They have, since downgraded their forecasts and would be delighted if the level reached 30 per cent in the short to medium-term.

What went wrong? To be fair, the industry is less than five years old and, until recently, has been more concerned with ripping up streets than gaining customers. Nonetheless, no one in the business thought that the numbers would look this bad.

Dan Somers, the executive chairman of Bell Cablemedia, the third largest cable company, puts a lot of blame on terrible service. "We have not done a good job of delivering our product to our customers," he said. "It's an industry problem. We have not met customers' expectations." Indeed, cable has become synonymous with bad service. The companies generated ill will from the start when they were seen to dig up streets haphazardly, sometimes killing trees and disrupting power and water supplies. Then, in many cases, they just disappeared.

One customer said a flyer promoting the service popped through his letterbox two years ago. He has never been contacted since and does not even know how to reach the cable company. Others have complained about aggressive marketing, inaccurate bills, failure to set up direct-debit accounts properly, failure to mail out literature such as *Cable Guide* magazine, general rudeness and lousy programming. The Mirror Group's Live TV, with its topless darts, news bunny and the soap, *Canary Wharf*, has not been everyone's idea of dazzling programming.

Expense has been another problem. The basic cable service costs about £15 a month but viewers who want BSkyB's premium movie and sports channels have to pay around £35. Viewers who receive the direct-to-home satellite service pay about £10 less per month for the premium packages, which is another reason why BSkyB is performing better than its terrestrial brethren. BSkyB subscribers, however, have to pay £200 or more for the satellite dish and decoder.

Some cable companies, General, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron among them, blame BSkyB for their lack of progress. They have complained to the Office of Fair Trading about BSkyB's practice of "bundling" channels, which means that subscribers have to pay for several channels in order to get the one or two they do want. The complainants want their customers to be able to buy individual channels à la carte.

Mr Somers thinks that scoring a victory with the OFT and developing alternative programming will boost the industry's fortunes. "Our goal is to offer more flexibility to our customers in terms of their choices," he said. Tackling BSkyB, though, will not be easy and not everyone wants to. TeleWest and Nynex, the two largest players, are happy with the programming supply deals they struck with BSkyB.

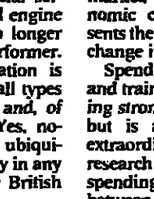
In the meantime, the industry faces a make-or-break year. Unless the penetration rates increase and the "churn", or disconnection rates, go in the opposite direction, the task of raising debt to fund construction, acquisitions and day-to-day operations will become increasingly difficult. There is talk that some American and Canadian groups have read the riot act to their cable subsidiaries in Britain: New managers are being appointed to shake things up. Nynex and Bell Cablemedia have recently replaced their chief executives.

The cable companies plan a vigorous effort this year to improve customer service. Mr Somers, for one, has insisted that every complaint reaches his desk. The companies will also launch a £12 million national advertising campaign in the spring to raise awareness about the programming choices available and to promote the telephony services, which they claim substantially undercut BT.

In the coming years, they will try to introduce so-called broadband services such as video-on-demand, Internet access, and home shopping and banking. Their message will be that a single cable can provide any electronic service you can imagine. "This is a ten-year game; we don't have to get it right just now," Mr Miller said.

But there's a good chance all this extra effort won't give the cable industry star status. BSkyB is getting bigger, notably on the sport front, a fifth terrestrial channel is coming and, more importantly, so is digital terrestrial TV.

Within a few years, the average residential customer will enjoy a wide choice over how to receive programming, and cable will be just one of them.



JANET BUSH

UK consumers shifting to self-indulgence

Seismic shifts in the way we British spend our money suggest that this nation of shopkeepers would do well to consider a quick career change. Up and coming entrepreneurs are running sports centres, restaurants and hotels, travel agencies, cleaning firms, colleges and nurseries. We are spending proportionately less on consumer durables and more on a mixture of self-indulgence and self-improvement.

Spending on services almost single-handedly kept growth going in the latter part of last year, but the business and financial services field, the usual engine of this sector, is no longer the only star performer. Spending on education is soaring, as it is on all types of leisure activities and, of course, gambling. Yes, nobody can ignore the ubiquitous National Lottery in any analysis of how the British spend their money.

The rise in spending on intangibles may, of course, turn out to be a temporary phenomenon. Various readings of consumer confidence have strongly suggested throughout the recovery a reluctance to splash out on big-ticket items, hardly surprising given the squeeze exerted on disposable income through higher taxes, low pay rises and servicing the considerable debts still lingering after the 1980s spending spree. This may change over the coming year as large chunks of money fall into people's pockets from utility rebates and building society merger windfalls, taxes and interest rates fall, and the housing market begins to recover (fingers crossed).

> The income gap between skilled full-time earners and those who help them to oil the wheels will widen

Even then, spending is likely to vary from one product to another. After all, British households already own what seems to be regarded as the minumum level of creature comfort for a modern society. The 1996 edition of *Social Trends finds that 97 per cent of* British households have a colour television set, 89 per cent a washing machine, 77 per cent a video recorder, and 67 per cent a microwave.

Without the allure of technological change and ever more outrageous gadgetry, some of these areas will soon be close to saturation. But one sector that should continue to thrive — and has already underpinned retail sales during the recovery — is computers. This is understandable since, to date, only 24 per cent of households have a home computer. In *Tony Blair's brave new Lab*our world of surfing the superhighway, we had all better get wired up.

The two other growth areas in spending, highlighted by Stephen Radley, of The Henley Centre, are the need for self-improvement and the need to hire household services in two-career families beset with "time-poverty". Both of these are phenomena of Britain's flexible labour market, an anodyne economic concept that represents the deepest imaginable change in the way we live.

Spending on education and training has been growing strongly since the 1980s, but is accelerating at an extraordinary pace. Henley research suggests that spending grew 27 per cent between 1984 and 1990 but 40 per cent between 1990 and the second quarter of 1995, remarkable given that recession and then a consumer squeeze dominated that period. In the past five years of this decade, Henley expects spending to rise more than 60 per cent. Increasingly, we are dipping into our own pockets to update and broaden skills, supplement the existing schools system with extra lessons for our children, and paying for our toddlers to go to playgroups and nursery schools.

Spending on household services rose 26 per cent between 1984 and 1990 and 21 per cent beween 1990 and 1995. Henley expects further growth of nearly 21 per cent by the end of the century as two-earner households buy the services that allow them to devote themselves to working. The income gap between skilled, full-time earners and those who help them to oil the wheels will widen further, but both sets of people suffer from increased stress. One group is beset with increasingly long hours and a ferocious pressure to perform, the other by a poisonous drip-feed of insecurity and uncertainty.

For both, the antidote seems to be more spending on recreation. Escapism is a major ingredient in spending decisions nowadays. And, after all, a good meal, a weekend break or a game of football cannot be repossessed if you find yourself out of a job.

Sarah Bagnall on a high street empire-builder

Sheffield retail king thrives on a diet of high-speed expansion

Stephen Hinchliffe, Sheffield's king of the high street, has achieved something remarkable. In 18 months he has built, from scratch, one of the country's largest privately owned retail empires.

Facia, in which Mr Hinchliffe owns 100 per cent of the ordinary equity, set out on its acquisition spree in August 1994, snapping up famous high street names at the rate of one every two months. The result is a retail group with about 900 stores and 7,700 employees generating sales of more than £300 million a year — statistics that earn it the title of Britain's second largest independent retailer.

The company's cache includes Sock Shop, Torq, the costume jewellery chain, Red or Dead, the fashion and footwear company, Salisbury's, the luggage and handbag group, Contessa Ladieswear and Oakland Menswear. Last August he acquired, from Sears, 245 shoe shops trading under the banners of Freeman Hardy & Willis, Manfield and Trueform. At the weekend Facia bought a further batch of shoe shops from Sears, paying an undisclosed sum for 134 Saxone and Curtess stores and £10 million of assets.

Mr Hinchliffe says: "We have built up a business of critical mass: I wouldn't miss an opportunity to acquire another business if it came along but if one doesn't appear there is plenty of organic growth." A former director of Sheffield United Football Club who still owns a 15 per cent stake, Mr Hinchliffe has raised a few eyebrows in the City over Facia's rate of expansion. Some analysts have questioned how Facia funds its rapid expansion.



Hinchliffe snapped up famous names at a furious rate

Mr Hinchliffe says the funding is straightforward. He amassed a sizeable fortune from his previous business incarnations, which together with short-term bank debt helps Facia finance its acquisitions. The short-term borrowings are then repaid out of the cash the businesses generate.

Some analysts question the ability of Mr Hinchliffe and Gary O'Brien, Facia's finance director, to turn the businesses round in the prevailing trading environment. But Facia has bought at the bottom of an economic cycle and the prices paid were only a fraction of the value the chains possessed in the heady days of the 1980s.

Facia has the added advantage of acquiring the retail operations without having their massive overheads. Vendors of the retail brands often say the chain is loss-making at the point of sale but this frequently comes after they have made hefty contributions to group overheads. Stripping out these overheads the businesses are said to be contributing to group profits.

However, as the company is privately held and Mr Hinchliffe is the sole shareholder — bar Murray Johnstone with a small preference shareholding — there is no onus on the group to reveal the nitty-gritty of its operations.

Facia completed its first full year of trading on January 6 so outsiders will have to wait until about April before they are privy to the group's financial health. This is when Mr Hinchliffe expects to file Facia's first set of accounts at Companies House. "People will be pleasantly surprised by what we have achieved," he says.

Mr Hinchliffe, 46, trained as an accountant but began in marketing, then moved into property and computing before branching out into retailing in 1985. He played a major role in the buy-in/buyout of Wades department stores from Asda and ended up with a 40 per cent holding in Wades, which was sold for £7.3 million in 1987.

Two years later, Data Memories, his computer company, was reversed into Lynx Group. He received a 25 per cent holding in the company, which grew rapidly until he left under a cloud in 1992. At the same time, he abruptly parted company with James Wilkes, the engineering group of which he had been chairman, in the middle of a hostile takeover bid by Petrocon.

It is not surprising that Mr Hinchliffe now wants to remain private and in control.

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Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Treatt PLC issued and currently quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market of the London Stock Exchange to be admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange (the "Official List"). It is expected that admission will become effective and dealings in the ordinary shares of 10p each of Treatt PLC will commence on 12th February 1996.

TREATT PLC

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 1568937)

Introduction to the Official List by Panmure Gordon & Co. Limited

of the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of TREATT PLC

SHARE CAPTAL

Authorised Number	Authorised Amount		Issued and fully paid Number	Issued and fully paid Amount
12,500,000	£1,250,000	ordinary shares of 10p each	9,597,979	£959,797.90

Copies of the exempt listing document may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and any public holidays excepted) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP (for collection only) from the date of this notice up to and including 8th February 1996 and from the date of this notice up to and including 20th February 1996 from:

Panmure Gordon & Co. Limited
New Broad Street House
35 New Broad Street
London EC2M 1NH

Treatt PLC
Northern Way
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP32 6NL

6th February 1996

هكذا في الإعلان

Good morning.

(And why it is one.)

It's not every day you can talk about a genuine medical breakthrough.

But maybe today, February 6th, is the exception.

This morning, two leading pharmaceutical companies – Pharmacia and Upjohn – are announcing to the world the merger of their operations.

This will mean that two pools of specialised medical talent now have the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight against cancer, AIDS, infectious diseases and many other medical conditions.

This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however.

It is also about shared ideals.

Our new trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.

Pharmacia
&Upjohn

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
0345 256 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dartland Assur	204.40	216.30	+ 2.10	0.22
Dartland Equity	378.30	398.20	+ 0.20	1.86
Dartland Extra	251.50	265.20	+ 2.70	0.74
Dartland Exps Bnd	121.10	135.80		5.14
Dartland Gth	76.57	78.04	- 0.88	4.91
Dartland Japan	181.80	192.40	- 0.40	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 853 231

Balanced Acc	636.70	677.40	+ 0.40	2.49
Balanced Inc	542.80	582.80	+ 0.50	2.49
UK Growth Acc	431.40	459.00	+ 0.50	2.56
UK Growth Inc	367.40	395.60	+ 0.40	2.88
Higher Inc Acc	765.20	836.40	+ 1.40	4.05
Higher Inc Inc	437.40	465.40	+ 0.70	4.05
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	398.50	218.60	- 1.40	5.48
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	94.94	100.20	- 0.70	5.48
Nth America	348.20	370.30	- 1.50	0.46
Europe	330.10	351.20	- 2.80	0.11
Intl Equity	85.92	91.41	+ 0.08	2.85
Intl Fixed Int Acc	114.20	121.50		4.81
Intl Fixed Int Inc	73.95	85.06	- 0.03	4.81
Global Opps	89.72	95.50	+ 0.10	2.68
Balanced Inc	82.93	88.21	- 0.10	2.68
Balanced Inc	59.84	63.66	- 0.10	2.68
Japan Acc	48.11	51.16	- 0.25	
Pac Basin Acc	471.20	459.30	- 1.50	0.11

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	131.20	139.20	- 1.20	7.10
High Inc Equity	179.40	191.50#	+ 0.70	4.30
Worldwide Bond	288.30	306.70#	- 2.80	4.26
American Growth	349.40	372.40$	- 3.20	0.56
Asian Pacific	365.60	378.70	+ 0.90	0.11
Assets & Earnings	295.50	315.40	+ 0.50	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	166.60	176.10	- 1.20	0.58
Extra Inc	44.56	47.46$	- 0.01	8.48
Europe	271.20	288.60$	+ 0.50	2.69
Global Opps	63.88	67.98	- 0.25	0.44
Japan	126.60	132.30	- 1.00	
Managed Inc	48.00	51.10#	- 0.07	4.65
Mid Market	163.10#	174.40	- 0.40	1.40
Pan Emerging Cos	132.00	140.50	- 0.80	
Select	75.40	81.30	+ 0.24	2.50
International	135.50	144.20	+ 0.30	0.71
Dividend & Growth	65.60	70.80#	+ 0.10	4.53
Market Gwth & Inc	71.90	76.40		2.46

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	2051.00	2134.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	57.85	60.67	- 0.08	0.51
Cash	50.47	50.47	+ 0.01	5.79
Emerging Mkts	74.66	78.48	+ 0.18	0.04
European	133.50	138.80#	- 0.66	
General	1013.70	1065.20#	- 15.20	1.22
Extra Income #	49.61	52.14	- 0.05	8.52
Far East Emrg Eqs	133.10	139.80	- 1.00	0.45
Fixed Interest #	23.62	24.57#	- 0.04	8.56
Fund Inv Tst	167.30	176.00#	- 0.50	9.15
Japan	169.80	178.60	- 0.50	
Latin American	57.32	60.83#	+ 0.28	0.61
Pacific	88.20	92.91	- 0.58	0.28
Recovery Shrs	68.03	69.52#	- 0.04	2.65
UK Emerging Cos	69.29	74.25#	+ 0.02	1.67
UK Growth	50.73	53.64	+ 0.01	2.19
Abtr World Pool #	91.63	96.15	- 0.17	1.67
Gilt Inc	75.48	78.51	- 0.74	2.24
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.98	53.98	- 0.15	7.36

For Accom see Matheson

ABWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

Rental Property	94.02	101.60#		5.31

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 385 858

Amity Income	85.01	90.26	- 0.06	2.25
Income Builder Inc	76.41	83.42	- 0.03	2.76

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
BA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Managed Trusts				
Growth & Income	268.50	284.80#	- 1.00	3.25
Capital	470.50	502.90	- 2.10	1.25
Balanced	771.70	824.50#	- 3.00	2.62
Accumulator	1488.00	1562.00	- 8.00	1.97
Income Trusts				
American Income	88.98	92.99#	- 0.90	2.54
High Income	438.70	466.80	- 2.80	4.04
Equity Income	242.70	258.40#	- 1.50	4.06
High Yield	263.90	282.10	- 1.80	4.14
Gilt/ Securities	34.42	36.32	- 0.29	8.01
International Trusts				
Asian Spec Sits	188.40	211.80	- 2.90	0.05
European Growth	44.83	47.74	- 0.43	0.88
International	188.40	201.20#	- 2.40	0.11
Japan	211.70	226.30#	- 1.00	
Pacific	442.60	470.10	- 1.90	
Sons of Americs	548.00	582.50	- 7.90	0.13
Wrldwd Assnt Val	55.47	59.29	- 0.69	0.82
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	589.20	629.60	- 5.20	1.60
Cnvn & Gilt	45.07	48.19#	- 0.24	4.44
Smaller Cos	188.60	200.90#	- 0.80	1.08
2nd Smaller Cos	183.90	195.50	- 0.10	0.94
Recovery	156.30	167.00	- 0.80	1.88
Inter Mkt & Cdty	180.90	193.50	- 0.70	0.16
Overs Earnings	397.20	424.60#	- 3.40	1.16
Technology	212.30	226.90#	- 0.50	
UK Special Sits	541.30	578.60#	- 1.90	1.08

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01226 820 811

Dstrbd Dist Fnds	114.50	118.80		8.04
Freeside Fixed Fnds	68.73	71.40		1.44

BAI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 588 0033

Capital	79.56	84.66#	- 0.20	1.74
International	70.82	75.34		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	320.40	342.90#		
Bond	119.50	125.80#		6.88
Bal Sndr Cos	112.40	119.90#		1.71
Conv & Gen #	89.51	78.95		5.94
Europe	254.50	270.10		0.81
Euro Sndr Cos	133.90	121.30		0.65
Income Gwth	381.50	405.90		3.78
Japan	332.40	353.90		
Latin American	82.46	87.72		0.98
Pacific	121.50	129.40$		1.11
UK Sndr Cos	57.77	61.48#		1.90
Japan Fd	700.50	722.30		
Mngd Fd	197.30	209.60		2.83

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8873

Bd & Ovsea	353.80	375.00#		0.96
Capital Gwth	124.10	131.30		2.49
Wrldw Oppo	220.20	232.50		0.52

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 554 9644

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	402.70	418.40	+ 1.40	2.53
European Bd Inc	95.38	98.74#	- 0.21	6.88
Exempt	79.97	85.31	- 0.07	3.97
Financial	94.80	101.60	+ 0.10	2.45
500	485.80	525.20		2.61
General	308.90	330.70	+ 0.70	2.48
Property	240.50	258.10#		5.47
Trustee	214.10	228.40#	+ 0.40	2.22
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40#		5.64
Extra Income #	132.40	141.60	+ 0.30	4.85
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.78	60.86	- 0.38	8.12
Income #	573.20	613.60#	+ 0.10	4.70
Income Builder #	68.00	73.50	+ 0.04	5.54
Intl Income	70.57	75.68#	- 0.22	3
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	135.00	144.00#	- 0.70	2.03
Lifetime	1397.00	1470.00	- 5.00	1.82
Recovery	453.40	485.70	+ 1.80	2.71
Smlr Cos Inc	81.31	86.03	+ 0.17	2.77
Special Sits	355.00	378.70	+ 1.50	1.23
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
Americas	165.30	175.50	- 1.40	0.30
Pacif Acc	277.90	295.60	- 2.50	1.84
Pacif Inc	167.30	179.00	- 2.10	1.84
Euro Gwth Inc	124.80	165.40	- 1.00	0.56
- do - Accum	168.30	179.00	- 1.50	0.56
Japan & Gen Inc	162.50	172.00	- 0.80	
- do - Accum	164.86	174.00	- 0.80	
Japan Spec Sits	74.30	78.71	- 0.54	
Worldwide	194.50	206.90#	- 0.90	0.52

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	122.00	130.00	- 1.20	
Asian Smlr Cos	152.30	163.20	- 0.90	
Convertibles	97.75	92.65#	- 0.11	4.99
Eastern	333.70	360.00	- 0.50	
Equity Income	91.90	98.40#	- 0.30	3.80
European Growth	248.50	261.80	- 4.70	0.69
Europe	268.30	307.30	- 2.20	1.90
German Growth	85.26	90.43	- 0.86	0.59
Global Bond	69.89	73.54#	- 0.51	8.50
Global Growth	148.80	156.30#	- 0.80	0.40
Japan Growth	210.20	220.20	- 1.20	
Japan Smaller	168.20	176.20	+ 0.10	
Korea Trust	77.33	84.37	+ 1.10	
Portfolio	143.50	153.80		2.30
- do - Accum	267.10	286.50	- 0.10	2.30
UK Growth	94.39	101.10	+ 0.20	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	86.33	94.10	+ 0.10	2.50
Select Managers	85.07	92.24	- 0.17	1.06

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 259 3980

Intl Growth Inc	80.01	85.76$		
Special Opps Inc	62.82	66.62$		

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
01481 726 669

Balanced Growth	128.62	136.85	- 0.08	1.50
- do - Accum	148.06	156.60	- 0.11	1.50
Smaller Cos	131.13	138.76	- 0.26	0.76
Higher Yield #	92.65	95.72#	- 0.04	4.53
American Gth Inc	92.26	97.93#	- 0.41	
European Growth	148.75	157.41	- 0.62	0.30
- do - Accum	159.89	169.51	- 0.65	0.30
Global Bond Inc #	27.74	28.75	- 0.15	7.08
Mngd Profile Inc	90.09	92.92	- 0.14	1.37
- do - Accum	91.31	94.26	- 0.15	1.37
Int Spec Opps	151.96	160.82	- 0.84	
Pacific Gth	152.10	162.10	- 0.54	0.31
Uk Growth #	87.48	92.95#	- 0.04	3.22
- do - Accum #	92.07	97.43	- 0.04	3.22
Japan	82.36	85.99#	- 0.36	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.61	105.30	- 0.66	8.29

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Shrd Dated Gilt	68.15	69.02	- 0.13	8.15

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5080

Envirox	175.70	186.90	+ 0.20	1.69
UK Growth	194.00	206.40#	+ 0.30	1.86
UK Income	145.20	154.50	+ 0.10	4.16

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 622 100

Can Gen Bnd	223.98	237.40#	- 0.31	1.57
- do - Income Dist	120.90	128.10	+ 0.10	3.80
- do - Accum	360.40	403.20	+ 0.60	3.80
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.68	43.12#	- 0.31	8.31
Growth Units	227.40	239.70	+ 0.30	2.03
Bond	178.30	188.10	- 0.80	7.13
Intl Growth	243.80	258.10	- 1.00	0.21
Money Appreciat	244.60	258.30	- 1.00	0.81
Far East	329.40	351.20	- 1.90	0.81
UK Smaller Cos	203.80	217.80	- 0.20	1.25
European	92.77	98.81	- 0.05	0.66
Japanese Growth	48.47	50.52	- 0.32	
High Income	213.60	227.80	+ 0.50	3.91

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0181 831 7443 Enq 0181 831 7433 Dlg 0181 831 7455

American & Gen	199.10	211.90	- 1.00	
European Inc	88.74	93.94	- 0.05	1.45
Extra Inc Cos (4-1)	89.51	102.68	- 0.05	1.45
Growth	494.90	526.50	- 2.40	1.74
Income & Growth #	445.00	473.50#	- 1.00	3.82
- do - Accum #	857.70	899.70	- 1.70	3.82
Japan & Gen	71.96	76.39	- 0.26	
Monthly Portfolio	1114.31	1185.94#	- 28.00	2.12
- do - Accum	2108.05	2242.45	- 34.00	2.12
Special Sits	115.30	122.70#	+ 0.10	1.81
High Yield	114.52	114.97	+ 4.00	4.26

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0726

- Cazenove Portfolio	97.11	103.84#	- 0.47	2.46
American Portfolio	118.40	126.57	- 1.70	0.62
European Portfolio	114.70	124.43	- 1.11	0.46
High Income	51.98	55.19#	- 0.02	7.75
Japanese Portfolio	80.56	75.01#	- 0.10	
Pacific Portfolio	165.46	175.78	- 1.04	1.35
UK Inc & Growth	91.91	98.21	- 0.47	2.86
Utility & Bond	97.95	99.64	- 0.23	6.90

CENCAP OF FIN OF ENGRGN OF SME
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	739.85	756.80	- 1.76	4.25
Fnd In Sec	159.70	169.40	- 0.57	3.97

CGNF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	738.50	748.75	+ 2.79	4.32
Investment Acc	932.84	933.44	+ 12.48	
Fixed Int Inc	128.49	128.95	- 0.86	8.92
Fixed Int Acc	210.53	210.41	- 1.46	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5000

Blackfriars Intl	98.80	102.25		2.80
Black Bp-Tech	53.46	57.10#		
Accm Ethical Tst	169.50	176.84		0.61
City Fin Assets	78.45	82.36	+ 0.77	2.55
City Fin America	115.22	120.99		
City Fin Intl	93.80	97.87		0.82
City Fin Japan	198.30	184.34#		
Fidelity Intnl Cap	305.10	320.71	- 0.10	2.56
Fidelity Hng Inc	389.60	218.63	+ 3.06	4.11
Fidelity Intnl Gth	142.80	154.87		
Fidelity Pac Cap Gth	198.10	198.10		
Fidelity Pac Inc	162.80	170.85		
J Sfd Inc/Gth Inc	57.98	59.54#		1.57

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01227 227 300

Emerging Markets	60.19	63.77#	+ 0.07	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	75.96	80.84	- 0.09	
European Growth	76.66	82.20	- 0.33	0.56
Property Pnds Inc	99.65	99.65	+ 0.01	5.51
- do - Accum	126.71	134.69	+ 0.49	4.65
Extra Income Inc	96.51	97.91#	- 0.14	7.13
Extra Income Acc	27.92	29.40	- 0.14	7.13
European Growth	99.76	103.94	- 1.01	1.02
European	29.91	31.36	- 0.15	
General Equity	97.78	103.75	+ 0.05	2.84
Japan Growth	53.26	56.76	- 0.35	
Pacific Growth	54.20	58.06	+ 0.01	2.54
Pnd Spl Sits Inc	34.79	36.95	+ 0.05	1.51
- do - Accum	36.58	38.91	+ 0.05	1.51
Retirement Inc #	28.04	29.83	+ 0.12	5.66
Special Sits	47.72	47.57	+ 0.12	1.92
UK & Overseas	57.47	60.96	- 0.39	0.69

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Balanced	66.53	69.30		4.05
Capital	78.81	81.85	+ 0.03	1.86
High Income	51.61	53.13	- 0.39	
Top 50	53.36	55.61	- 0.12	

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT SVS, LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPF FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	179.67	191.14	+ 0.56	4.58
Fixed & Convertible	41.37	44.01#	+ 0.21	8.80
Monthly Inc Plus	48.59	52.76	- 0.31	8.48
Performance Shares	47.09	50.10#	+ 0.06	7.58
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.82	142.36#	+ 0.09	5.71
Managed Fund	75.77	80.61	- 0.19	2.92
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	45.47	48.37	+ 0.20	1.66
- do - Accum	52.05	55.39	+ 0.24	1.66
UK & General	91.41	97.24	+ 0.19	2.63
- do - Accum	117.31	124.80	+ 0.25	2.63
UK Dividends	172.58	184.02	+ 1.53	2.20
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	208.22	218.36	- 1.86	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	144.76	154.02	- 0.69	
Global Bond	85.44	90.91	- 0.39	5.92
Japan Growth	118.99	127.05	- 0.48	
North Amer Gth	222.58	236.78	- 2.84	
Oriental Growth	88.92	95.46	- 0.48	0.06
Worldwide Growth	74.38	79.13	- 0.56	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (FROM PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.86	92.86	+ 0.04	5.57
Homemaker Fund	91.12	96.96	- 0.10	1.56
Dollar Fund	159.67	169.29	+ 0.11	1.04

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5000

Consistent Utl	93.86	98.22#		3.42

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	178.50	184.60	- 1.10	1.35
Recovery	71.19	75.72#	- 0.21	5.42
European	69.16	73.57	- 0.50	0.47
Recovery	169.50	180.30	+ 0.10	1.31

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 253 9494

Equity Dist	933.40	948.60		3.40

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

Fellowship Tst	97.11	103.30	+ 0.10	1.45
Income #	277.80	295.30	+ 0.50	4.05
- do - Accum #	712.00	757.40	+ 1.30	4.05
Smaller Cos	288.10	321.30#	+ 0.40	1.04
- do - Accum	297.10	279.50	+ 0.40	1.04
Inv Portfolio	95.23	101.39#	+ 0.10	1.48
High Inc Port #	78.74	84.82	+ 0.15	4.20

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1686.09	1651.70		
Japan Small Cos	1321.78	1348.30		
UK Small Cos	1670.50	2251.80#		
US Small Cos	2013.40	2059.90		

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 577 8819

Disc Inc	233.96	285.90		2.49

DONEGAL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 3500

European Gwth	309.90	327.10	- 3.40	0.05
Far East	253.10	270.10	- 0.80	0.21
Japan Growth	114.30	122.00	- 0.70	
Jap Smlr Cos	473.10	500.80	- 0.10	
Nth Amer	377.60	399.40	- 2.50	0.73
UK Inc & Gwth	240.10	256.20	+ 0.30	2.77

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 888

UK Balanced Inc	159.86	169.80#	+ 0.50	1.80
UK High Inc Inc	168.50	179.20	+ 0.30	3.81
- do - Accum	229.30	237.50	+ 0.40	3.81
UK Prof & Fl Inc	58.22	62.01#	- 0.50	5.88
Sterling Bond Opps	94.59	100.30	- 0.20	
UK Smlr Cos #	81.67	85.80		0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.24	51.31	- 0.40	7.60

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 089 889

Americas	164.76	174.86	- 1.00	0.46
Convertibles #	32.19	33.58	+ 0.05	5.94
Equity Income #	138.70	147.40	- 0.50	4.07
Gearfund	36.54	38.80#	- 0.07	0.33
General	52.22	55.50	- 0.05	1.39
Growth & Inc #	270.60	287.50#	- 0.20	2.89
High Dist #	172.70	184.00	- 0.40	4.89
International	466.40	473.20	- 1.50	0.11
Int Cap Inc	165.30	111.50#	- 0.50	2.45
Latin America	32.05	34.05	+ 0.14	
Pacific	87.36	92.79	+ 0.22	
Prof High Inc	21.58	23.26#	- 0.08	7.07
Tokyo	242.90	257.80	- 0.70	
UK Smaller Cos	248.50	261.30	- 0.50	0.15

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0262

Ely Charter Dlgs	104.64	111.94	+ 0.51	1.21
Growth Acc	248.47	265.41	+ 0.85	0.69
Income	182.21	629.29#	+ 1.12	5.47

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 375 7297

Endurance Fd	225.80	240.00		1.19

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 488

European	88.44	94.15	- 1.00	1.84
Global Tst	47.80	50.95$	- 0.06	1.19
Far Eastern	329.27	346.88	- 1.19	1.52
High Income	139.88	148.18	- 0.74	4.78
Intl Growth	135.61	142.75	- 0.04	0.39
North American	139.39	146.83	- 1.42	1.47
Pacific	134.13	141.19	- 0.58	3.17
Smaller Cos	98.05	72.91	- 0.54	2.89
Special Sits	90.68	95.45	- 0.12	3.05
Tst of Inv Tsts	269.34	220.36	- 0.35	1.88

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
01771 497 888

Smaller Cos Inc	269.97	273.32	+ 0.57	1.27
Smaller Cos Acc	371.38	395.31	+ 1.82	1.27
Recovery	53.22	58.82	- 0.02	1.50
Recovery Acc	84.51	97.28	- 0.02	1.50

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	87.76	94.13	- 0.10	
Fd of Inv Tsts	51.08	54.45	- 0.07	0.52
High Income #	38.46	42.28	- 0.07	10.88
Warrant	28.16	81.96	+ 0.01	
Zero Preference	42.15	44.70	+ 0.01	

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Asset Tst	94.43	99.53	+0.550	3.47
Family Income Tst	45.40	48.48	+0.000	6.88
Capital Pnfr	94.10	100.10	+0.100	2.83
United Countries	277.10	294.70	+1.300	4.08

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Dealings, Private Clients: 0800 414 181

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.89
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.04	28.13	- 0.16	7.99
Intl Bond	30.07	31.20#	- 0.12	5.58
Income Funds				
High Income	25.75	27.09#	- 0.05	5.93
Income Plus	124.00	131.50	+ 0.10	4.01
Amer Express	80.66	83.64#	- 0.55	1.39
European Income	46.69	49.55	- 0.35	2.31
Far East Inc	67.68	72.31	- 0.15	2.26
Global Convertible	24.95	26.52	- 0.10	2.61
UK Div Grth	29.64	30.67	+ 0.01	3.21
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	75.66	80.61	- 0.05	
Asian Spec Sits	319.70	338.60	- 2.80	
Japan	167.80	179.20	+ 0.30	
Japan Smaller Cos	97.53	103.14	- 0.05	
European	204.30	217.20	- 1.50	0.60
European Opps	72.53	77.12	- 0.43	0.14
Pacific Basin	30.12	32.05	- 0.02	0.70
Special Sits	110.70	117.80	+ 0.90	1.21
Growth & Inc	163.60	173.90#		2.76
Intl PEP	44.58	47.41	+ 0.05	1.02
Japan Spec Sits	95.40	101.40	- 0.26	
Japan	198.60	202.50	- 0.80	
Managed Intl	202.20	203.50	- 2.50	0.42
Moneybuilder	62.76	66.72	+ 0.02	
Recovery	82.68	54.23	+ 0.14	1.32
South E Asia	188.90	202.50	- 1.00	0.56
Special Sits	68.60	69.50	+ 7.80	0.69
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	112.90	112.90	+ 0.04	5.80

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 374 2700

Balanced #	150.40	163.20		1.50
Inv Profile #	82.66	94.31	+ 0.21	3.27
Cap Profile	160.80	166.40#	- 0.10	1.42
General Opps	137.80	138.60		4.53
Growth Inc	36.11	35.80		1.74
Private Portfolio	477.60	497.70		

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq: 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 201 010

Euro Small Cos	138.66	142.40	- 0.60	0.63
Energy Assets	169.16	174.40	+ 0.50	
High Income	71.75	73.14#	+ 0.05	6.72
UK Income	171.10	118.50		4.32
US Smaller Cos	382.80	419.40	- 1.60	

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01737 852 352

- do - Inv Tst Inc	88.01	94.39	+ 0.09	4.03
Investment Trust	108.63	111.07	+ 0.25	
UK Smaller Cos	97.34	102.36#	+ 0.25	1

FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq: 0171 930 0500 Dealing: 0345 772511

American Growth	75.06	78.77	- 0.07	
- do - Accum	73.58	78.77	- 0.07	
Asian Smlr Cos	492.30	526.90	- 4.80	
- do - Accum	646.80	688.90	- 4.90	
Capital Tst	354.30	376.90		1.27
- do - Accum	544.80	547.45		
Conti Smlr Cos	88.95	95.22	+ 0.26	0.79
- do - Accum	84.31	89.82	+ 0.30	0.73
Corporates	136.70	145.40#	+ 0.20	5.19
- do - Accum	268.20	308.70#	+ 0.70	5.19
Emerging Markets	70.64	75.47	- 0.15	
- do - Accum	72.15	75.72	- 0.17	
European	132.90	140.80	- 0.90	0.16
- do - Accum	136.80	146.00	- 1.10	0.16
Extra Income	270.60	283.60#	+ 0.40	3.62
- do - Accum	573.60	612.70#	+ 0.70	3.62
Financial	154.60	165.00#	+ 0.80	0.60
- do - Accum	163.80	173.40	+ 0.90	0.60
Gilt Trust	94.65	98.87	- 0.36	8.00
- do - Accum

Shares turn sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
566	476½	Allied Domecq	515	+ 3	3.7	15.7
651	390	Bulmer (H&P)	649	+ 17	2.8	17.2
146	99	Burn Stewart	128		6.1	26.5
867	550	Chivas Bros	831½	- 3	4.3	15.2
536	404	Dalgety	457	- 5	3.8	14.2
445	315	Highland Dist	339	- 1	3.0	14.9
217	157	Macallan-Glen	166		1.0	36.8
710	600	Macdn Mth 'A'	630		2.2	17.8
694	532	Matthew Clarke	660	+ 4	4.2	..
140	61	Morgan W	103	+ 1	2.4	..
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2443½	- 25	1.5	32.5

BANKS

3092½	2137½	ABN AMRO	2933½	- 37½	4.4	10.7
663	413	Abbey Nat	604	- 5	4.0	12.1
385	258	Alfred Herb	358	- 3	4.9	10.4
336	158	Aus Nzlnd 2	333	- 3	4.9	..
4442½	2531½	Bank America	4443½	+ 58		
316	291½	Bank Scotland	289	- 4	2.7	12.8
811½	557½	Barclays	788	+ 3	3.6	10.9
2488	2160	Bk of Ireland	2420	- 9	3.7	9.2
525	416	Cater Allen	480		7.8	7.9
4868½	2950	Citicorp	4843½	- 25		
370	216½	Close Bros	367	- 1	3.0	16.1
2162½	1339½	Commercial	2155½	+ 101½	3.4	..
1375	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1350½	+ 3½	0.4	..
3312½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3268½	- 6½	2.2	..
991½	568½	Esprito Santo	750	- 6½	4.8	10.0
1511	1138½	Fuji Bank Y	1439½	- 21½	0.4	..
430	395	Gerrard Nat	358		6.1	14.8
253	180	Hambros	251		4.6	..
1125	989	HSBC	1099½	- 24½	3.2	14.3
1099	973	HSBC HK	1074	- 22½	3.3	14.0
421	298	Irish Perm	415		2.9	9.6
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
155	85	King Shaxson	155	+ 1	7.3	12.0
350	308	Lloyds TSB	350	- 2		
1191	979	Mid Kent 5%	1180	- 5	9.5	8.5
697	456	Nat West	664	- 3	4.3	10.1
67	44	Rea Brothers	59		3.1	23.6
6390½	5735	Rpl Bk Scotl	5956	- 8	3.6	12.5
1478	998½	Schroders	1471	+ 1	1.4	17.1
1180	329½	Schroders NV	1018		1.7	14.5
111	61	Seager & Eved	105		4.4	10.9
662½	246	Shiloh Invest	635	- 14½	1.8	16.0
171	70	Union	169		1.2	..
2156½	1604½	Wells Fargot	2156½	+ 81½	1.9	..
317½	211	Westpac	307½	- 8	4.5	..
305	200	Wintrust	305		4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

66	35	Abrdn Dk Hs	42			91
310	143	Accnt Hldgs	309			0.6
742½	487	Bass	726	- 3	3.9	16.9
497	239	Beckervpt	481		2.4	24.7
76	42	Brk Inn Bst Bd	66		3.1	17.3
198	137	Burnswd Brwt	174		3.9	16.8
97	70½	City Center Rst	87		3.4	18.4
694	305	Compass Gp	678	+ 2	2.0	20.9
234	137	Eldridge P 'A'	222	- 11	2.6	20.5
315	205	Forte Grp 'A'	305	- 14	2.5	17.2
618	460	Greenalls Grpt	590½	- 5½	3.7	13.6
344	265	Gremlin Grpt	317		2.9	15.1
353	188	Grosvnr Hsg	347	- 2	3.1	14.7
1168	938	Grouge Chal Gz	1153	+ 6	1.2	30.1
357	240	Hardy Hanslpt	329		3.9	12.1
158	150	Hazelrigg	155		4.5	10.9
1450	1048	Holt J	1410		2.7	14.6
347	219	Marshall	326		2.7	16.3
338	266	Minton Thrp	338	+ 4	2.7	15.8
628	391½	Morland	605	+ 3	2.4	17.5
1529½	921	My Kings Tavn	1515	+ 6	2.6	13.4
9½	6	Paramount	8		4.6	9.6
142½	70	Pelican Gp	139		1.5	29.4
362	121	Pizzaexpress	362		1.0	31.1
319	207	Ramsdns (H)	318	+ 6	2.7	9.2
752	307	Regnt Inns	752	+ 2	1.2	29.6
639	482	Scot & Newc	634	- 2	3.6	17.6
258	173	Tom Cobleigh	255	- 1	3.1	41.5
295	213	Vaux Group	291	- 2	4.1	15.0
1449½	1078	Whitbread A	1438½	- 14	3.0	..
719	521	Whitbread	717	+ 1	3.6	17.7
634	483	Wolverhmpn O	627	- 7½	3.1	15.1
313	186	Yates Brent	313		1.3	27.8
675	425	Young A'	671		4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

38	21	AAF Inds	21			
150	126	Ashtenf	140		4.7	9.1
223	143	Allen	220	+ 1	3.4	16.9
345	241	Amec	339		3.8	20.9
275	133	Andrews Sykes	248			
195	97½	Ashtead	185		1.9	15.0
105	30	Avonside	31		13.3	4.9
38	23	Bailey (Geo) Con	24		5.5	5.8
42	36½	Barcom	36		1.0	..
362	156½	Barratt Dev	338	- 3	1.8	14.9
182	122	Beazer Homes	172	- 1	4.3	12.4
280	178	Bellway	270		3.6	13.0
37	15	Bellwinch	16		7.4	9.7
536	387½	Berkeley Gr'p	526		1.9	16.2
185	158	Bett Bros	159	- 1	4.2	5.7
248	175	Bovis Homes	180		5.0	8.4
124	81	Brandon Hire	91		3.1	16.2
40	17	Britannia Gp	23		8.7	4.5
180	38	Bt Bldg & Eng	42			
134	93	Bryant	109½	- ½	5.6	10.0
121	82	CALA	97	+ 1	4.1	9.4
38	19	Campbell & Arm	14			11.7
64	34	Clarke T	44		11.6	15.8
242½	64	Costain	72			
110	63	Countrywide	97		5.3	
81	63	Crest Nicholson	64	+ 1½	3.9	9.9
98	70	Cruden	78		6.1	6.8
261	165	Evr Group	220		5.1	11.8
92	73	Galliford	75		8.3	10.5
853	738	Gleeson (M.J)	795		2.5	14.0
86	56	Galen (Small)	56		11.4	24.4
224	178	Hanelock Exrn	205	- 3	1.5	22.3
158	115	Hamdn-Sloan	136		2.9	14.4
97	73	Higgs & Hill	94		3.1	21.4
14	9	Holland Hdgs	12	+ 1	5.3	22.2
69½	46	James	23½			
180	96	Kelier	132	+ 1	3.6	12.6
282	185	Lang (J)	262	- 1	4.1	31.3
107	83	Laing 5.5% Cr Pf	98		8.2	..
61	12	Lovell (Y.J)	13	- ½		
210	176	Maunders (J)	194		3.7	10.3
181	104	McAlpine (A)	153	+ 1	4.9	17.4
138	98	McCarthy & St	85		2.9	11.6
86	51	Morgan Sndall	85		1.3	
135	116	Morrison Cons	123		4.3	12.0
386	53	Mowlem (J)	63		4.0	37.4
216	162	Persimmon	186	- 1	5.8	..
1149	764	Pochins	1100		1.8	13.5
126	94	Pressac	113		4.2	15.1
19	13	Raine Ind	14½		4.3	
135	95	Redrow	119		3.0	12.1
196½	95	Sacon Petrs	94		3.8	12.1
398	310	Shanli Hdgs(I)	383		2.8	11.5
112½	71	Sharps	75		6.7	11.5
358	258	Spanton	358		1.0	22.9
176	142	Tay Homes	144		5.1	9.9
141½	99	Taylor Woodrw	136	- 2	2.0	26.3
565	415	Tilbury Douglas	430	- 3	8.6	14.7
23	6	Trenchermead'n	9	- 1		
30	7½	Try Group	12		6.2	16.8
179	71	Tysnsplant	84	- 1	5.8	6.5
116	65	Wadkinsons	87		6.5	8.1
69	37	Ward Hdgs	52		3.6	11.6
130	112½	Westbury	120		3.8	14.1
5½	2½	Wiggins	5			26.1
178	124	Wilson (C)	174		3.3	12.9
139	105	Wilson Bowdn	136	- 1	3.3	14.1
146	97	Wimpey G	139		4.9	30.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

35	21½	Aberdeen	34	- 1		
2675	2045	Blue Ind	2124	- 1	3.7	14.6
1100	780	Bocmpte Bnr	1080		3.9	15.2
84	58	Brandon	82	+ 1	6.2	19.5
88	58	Brickhouse	83	+ 1	0.9	
1850	1450	Blue Circle	1830	- 4	4.3	16.1
1116	1116	Bpb Ind	1116	+ 1	3.6	16.7
1000	1000	Br Dredging	1000		5.5	16.7
1000	1000	Bpb	514	- 1	3.0	19.2
1000	1000	Cawdwood Ply	1000		3.8	
1000	1000	Cmb	1000	- 1	4.3	11.1
1000	1000	Caradon	1000	- 1	5.3	11.6
1000	1000	Caradon 10	1000		10.6	
1000	1000	Chelsea Hse	1000		10.6	
1000	1000	Chrysalis Tmbr	1000	- 7	3.0	12.8
1000	1000	Clarkson Plt	1000		3.5	6.4
1000	1000	Cookson	1000		3.5	42.0
1000	1000	Crest Nicholson	64	+ 1½	3.9	9.9
1000	1000	Cookes	78		6.1	6.8
1000	1000	Ent Group	220		5.1	11.8
1000	1000	Galliford	75		8.3	10.5
1000	1000	Gleeson (M.J)	795		2.5	14.0
1000	1000	Galen (Small)	56		11.4	24.4
1000	1000	Hanelock Exrn	205	- 3	1.5	22.3
1000	1000	Hamdn-Sloan	136		2.9	14.4
1000	1000	Higgs & Hill	94		3.1	21.4
1000	1000	Holland Hdgs	12	+ 1½	5.3	22.2
1000	1000	James	23½			
1000	1000	Kelier	132	+ 1	3.6	12.6
1000	1000	Lang (J)	262	- 1	4.1	31.3
1000	1000	Laing 5.5% Cr Pf	98		8.2	..
1000	1000	Lovell (Y.J)	13	- ½		
1000	1000	Maunders (J)	194		3.7	10.3
1000	1000	McAlpine (A)	153	+ 1	4.9	17.4
1000	1000	McCarthy & St	85		2.9	11.6
1000	1000	Morgan Sndall	85		1.3	
1000	1000	Morrison Cons	123		4.3	12.0
1000	1000	Mowlem (J)	63		4.0	37.4
1000	1000	Persimmon	186	- 1	5.8	..
1000	1000	Pochins	1100		1.8	13.5
1000	1000	Pressac	113		4.2	15.1
1000	1000	Raine Ind	14½		4.3	
1000	1000	Redrow	119		3.0	12.1
1000	1000	Sacon Petrs	94		3.8	12.1
1000	1000	Shanli Hdgs(I)	383		2.8	11.5
1000	1000	Sharps	75		6.7	11.5
1000	1000	Spanton	358		1.0	22.9
1000	1000	Tay Homes	144		5.1	9.9
1000	1000	Taylor Woodrw	136	- 2	2.0	26.3
1000	1000	Tilbury Douglas	430	- 3	8.6	14.7
1000	1000	Trenchermead'n	9	- 1		
1000	1000	Try Group	12		6.2	16.8
1000	1000	Tysnsplant	84	- 1	5.8	6.5
1000	1000	Wadkinsons	87		6.5	8.1
1000	1000	Ward Hdgs	52		3.6	11.6
1000	1000	Westbury	120		3.8	14.1
1000	1000	Wiggins	5			26.1
1000	1000	Wilson (C)	174		3.3	12.9
1000	1000	Wilson Bowdn	136	- 1	3.3	14.1
1000	1000	Wimpey G	139		4.9	30.2

CHEMICALS

1000	1000	Allchem & Wh	1000		4.5	11.7
1000	1000	Allied Colloids	1000		3.5	30.3
1000	1000	Arrow Ind	1000		3.4	13.6
1000	1000	Ashland Chm	1000	- 150	2.8	
1000	1000	BOC	1000	- 5	3.6	17.9
1000	1000	Bpb	1000	- 5	3.6	16.6
1000	1000	Bayer (DM50)	1000	+ 103½	2.3	
1000	1000	Brent Chemic	1000		4.9	32.7
1000	1000	Br Vita	1000	- 2	3.5	13.9
1000	1000	Conmarg Grp	1000	- 2	4.7	13.2
1000	1000	Diomedsuits	1000	- 5	4.5	19.7
1000	1000	Elementis	1000		3.4	14.6
1000	1000	Elka & Fenwick	1000		4.0	14.5
1000	1000	Exro Colour	1000		2.6	22.7
1000	1000	Ellsmere	1000		4.3	17.5
1000	1000	Fine & Speciall	1000		6.0	9.2
1000	1000	Finnchem	1000		6.0	6.5
1000	1000	Fisons	1000		4.5	13.1
1000	1000	Hickson	1000	- 6	4.5	13.1
1000	1000	Hoechst (DM)	1000	+ 1	2.1	16.0
1000	1000	Ici	1000		4.6	14.3
1000	1000	Johnson Matthy	1000		4.6	12.6
1000	1000	Laporte	1000	- 6	4.5	13.1
1000	1000	Lmw	1000	+ 1	2.1	16.0
1000	1000	Marden	1000		4.6	12.6
1000	1000	Mchndzd	1000		6.5	
1000	1000	Pmax	1000		3.2	17.3
1000	1000	Scapa	1000	- ½	3.2	16.5
1000	1000	Scottish Speak	1000		1.8	38.1
1000	1000	Tarmac Chem	1000	+ 10½	0.3	14.2
1000	1000	Victrex Plc	973	+ 3	2.8	16.5
1000	1000	Yorks Chem	1000		4.6	13.1
1000	1000	Yule Catto	1000	- 1	2.8	17.2

DISTRIBUTORS

107½	87	Alb Lds	99	+ 2	3.9	9.4
535	450	Allns & Hanbry	455		5.4	8.0
24	13	Alexandrnt	16		2.3	..
113	89	Appleyard	107		7.0	11.5
4½	2½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	..
623	505	BSS Group	549		6.5	15.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

2	0½	Anglo Utd	2			
353	295	Anglogold	348		1.6	16.3
943	728½	Bolton Hlm	927	- 16	2.7	20.9
3482	581	BTR	3320½	+ ½	5.2	14.5
1170	1000	Bunzl	1137½	- 11	4.9	12.8
2070	144	Bunzlpul Intl	194		1.9	14.9
131	71	Bubby (J)	123	+ 7	5.8	9.9
41½	15	Cable Inv	40½	+ ½	2.5	17.2
577	467	Chterhy Inv	569	+ 2	3.7	13.5
314	165	Cookson	297	- 2	3.1	13.6
161	135	Cmbl	157		3.8	9.3
157	119½	Fenner	144		3.1	14.1
153	108	Gnrvnmre Hdg	139		4.3	14.5
2430½	1870	Hanson	2170½	+ 47½	1.8	15.2
162½	135	Harrsn Cmbl	157	- 1	7.2	16.7
4590½	2000	Hutch Whamp	4370½	+ 47½	1.8	23.0
5847½	3417½	Jardine Math	5467½	+ 34½	2.0	10.8
1529½	921	Marlin (T)	1515½	+ 6	2.6	13.4
217½	134	Lonrho	212½	- ½	2.8	23.8
173	113	McLeod Russel	165		2.1	40.2
601	414	Powell Duffryn	482		6.8	10.0
152	129	Rmc Group	147		5.0	14.3
178	130	Slme Darby	168		2.8	15.4
250	184	Stanley	197		5.4	13.5
207	148	Slater	158	- 2	7.7	10.5
3031½	2377	T T Group	2944		2.4	16.5
344½	214½	Thorntwait	298	- 5	4.2	14.8
76	18½	Trafalgar H	32½			
395	295	Unidare	395		7.7	
400	315	Worlds Storeys	388		5.5	20.7
400	326	Wescott	395		2.7	15.1
350	262½	Whitecroft	339		5.9	14.3
350	296½	Williams Hldg	344	- 3	5.8	16.0

ELECTRICITY

754½	497½	East Midlands	716	+ 4	5.2	10.0
865½	679	London Elec'y	762	+ 11	6.0	8.6
485	292½	Midlands Elec	394	+ 5	5.9	10.8
1375½	1077½	National Grid	1201	- 2	6.3	10.5
581	421½	National Power	455	- 2	4.6	9.4
542	252	Nat Power P/P	325	- 1	4.5	9.5
1035½	442	Northern Elec'y	891	- 1	7.1	7.5
477	313	Nthn Ireland	424		6.5	10.8
609	457½	Powergen	523	- 4	4.1	9.6
598	353	PowerGen (P/P)	380	- 3	4.0	11.5
379	303	Hydro-Elec'y	347	- 1½	5.2	9.6
382	308	Scottish Power	367		3.6	11.5
538	344½	Seeboard	534		5.6	11.5
693	501½	Sth Wales	654	+ 3	4.5	8.9
889½	504½	Southern Elec'y	825		5.0	9.7
988½	558	Yorkshire Elec'y	744	- 8	6.1	7.8

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

577	292	Aeal	552	- 1	1.8	20.1
248	77½	Acorn Comp	199			
695	625	Admiral	693			
1750½	1177½	Aerosnd	1697	+ 1½	1.3	21.8
41	30	Aries	35		2.7	12.1
131	77	Aster	116		1.4	19.0
563	116	Aztec	556	- 13	0.8	24.5
384	238	BICC	367	- 3	5.4	16.9
350	215	Beales Hunts	315	- 3	6.1	21.5
503	423	Black	475	+ 5	3.5	13.6
436	284	Brathorpe	413½	+ ½	3.8	18.8
27	17½	Bdgn (AF) A'	22½		5.3	8.9
701	117	CML Micro'S	129		3.9	13.4
29	17	Clarnet Hldgs	27	- 1	6.1	11.7
29½	19	Cobrtsn	26		1.6	33.6
80	61	Cophshed	66		5.9	11.2
170	97	Corp Elect	168	+ 1½	4.7	17.4
668	462	Crtchley	668		1.8	22.9
648	330	Dwlw Br Sys	640	+ 11	0.4	34.5
533	373	Delta	387	- 3	5.1	13.3
568	365	Domtmyr	450		2.9	
155	61	Dowding Mlls	63		5.5	17.2
3313	1465	Dowty	3313	+ 13	0.5	35.5
33407½	24989½	Electrolux B'	28039½	- 75	4.1	
389½	26	Emess	37	- ½	0.3	
16599½	850	Eurocom B'	13849½	- 12½	3.0	10.2
194	64	Exprosyn	71		4.1	
575	370	Exmthsmpt	566	+ 2	1.7	22.3
563	375	Fairey Group	556	+ 1	1.8	23.8
514	165	Filtronic Comt	420	+ 2½	0.2	66.8
688	165	Fortend Gp	680		1.4	29.1
100	40	Forward Tech	94		3.3	13.1
374	299	GEC†	366½	- 2½	3.9	17.1
171	114	Gdsmith	162	+ 1	6.9	11.0
141	75	Ind Control	114		3.9	14.3
39	14	Intnsk	39	+ 3	3.6	55.2
114	50	Kode	113	- 1		
114	50	LPA Ind'l	90		5.1	16.8
330	268	MTL Instrs	330		5.1	16.1
208	168	Marconi Co	208	+ 2	2.7	17.6
539	397	Marconi'es	537½	- 2½	1.9	17.4
466	331	Mtrd	450	- 11		
70	40	Neotronics	63		2.5	
464	315	Oxford Inst	426	+ 6	1.2	16.8
183	51	Prism Systems	150	- 1	2.3	20.7
112	72	Psdt	101½		4.2	16.4
3327½	1906½	Philips Lmp pr	2640½	+ 16½	1.9	10.7
153	116	Plasmec	152	+ 4	3.9	12.2
94	58	Pressac	78		2.8	17.3
34	29	Prosonic	34			14.7
913	743	Psion	910	+ 10	0.6	32.7
318	217	Race Elect'l	308		2.3	17.0
191	38	Rotatmtc	50	- 1	1.3	13.9
449	351	Rainford	441		0.1	18.5
407	339½	Renishaw	402		2.0	24.5
31	24	Roderic	25			
1000	827½	Rotherm	1000		2.6	12.8
339	263	Sarantrex	339		1.8	21.5
96	58	Shrmnmns	96	+ 5	3.7	21.3
3486½	2486½	Racal Elec	3486½	- 15	1.9	
9½	5	RDS Computer	9			
102	65	Tpl	102		2.6	11.6
184	139	Tadpole	184		2.0	16.1
1000	1000	Tandy Corp	1000			
1000	1000	Tandy Corp	1000			
1000	1000	Tandy Corp	1000		

Spreading the net in the drive for more student jobs

MORE small businesses will have the opportunity in 1996 to employ second-year undergraduates for project-based assignments during the summer vacation.

Thousands of small firms have benefited since Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (Step) began in 1986, with a pilot scheme in the North East. Last year 1,200 students and companies were brought together. This year, the tenth anniversary, it is hoped there will be 1,300.

Long-term benefits include cost savings, job creation and higher turnover. Last year's survey of Step employers found that more than 96 per cent are likely to take part again. As one employer puts it: "Companies like ours have no spare capacity for developing projects, and these students are at an age to have initiative and a lively mind." Many firms, realising the value of their contribution, decide to employ a graduate for the first time.

Students also gain: they acquire skills and experience during the eight-week scheme and realise the career possibilities offered by smaller companies.

Payment is £100 a week, the employer and Step paying half each. The scheme is supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, which is currently investing £500,000 over three years.

This year Step planners hope to achieve national coverage, filling gaps in Scotland such as Highlands and Islands. They also want to locate more companies around Manchester, Birmingham and North Yorkshire, and to have a programme in the area of every training and enterprise council, local enterprise company and Business Link.

"We hope to raise the profile of the programme among small businesses, and show the result it can have on their bottom line," said Liz Rhodes, director of Step, who can be contacted on 0171-936 3556. "There is a great demand by students for work placements, and we want businesses to be aware of the potential."

SALLY WATTS



"Never known anything else"

Helping small firms to Step forward

Sally Watts assesses the Shell-sponsored scheme that allows businesses to focus on product development

One of the big attractions of the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (Step) is that it gives small businesses the opportunity to develop a sound idea. This was the case ten years ago when Roger Pannell, an electronics engineer, set up Global Communications (UK) near Maldon, Essex, to make components for satellite television.

At first there was only himself and his wife, Helen Crossley, the company secretary. Now there are 25 employees in design, marketing and business, plus sub-contractors. Most of the products are exported. In 1994 the firm took on two Step students. One, studying production engineering, implemented manufacturing software.

The project for the second — John Cooper, a UMIST student of electrical and electronic engineering — was to take forward Global's noted ADX black box, which upgrades and transforms an old satellite receiver into a modern one. Some 500,000 have been sold. John designed a box that allowed viewers to receive programmes from two different satellites, whereas previously they were limited to one block of channels. Now a graduate, he is back with Global as a design engineer. "We were impressed with the quality and quantity of his work," says Mr Pannell. "I would recommend Step as an economical way of developing an idea . . . held up for want of time and money."

After employing a Step student for the first time last summer, the tiny Monmouth company of Hughes Whitlock has signed up its first full-time graduate. The company manufactures instruments that detect bacteria and measure surface contamination, ranging from radio isotopes to microbes.



Zoe Davis: double benefits

Zoe Davis, 22, a biological science student at Exeter University, was supplied by Step for eight weeks to assist in developing and refining a protocol for using the bioprobe to establish the level of contamination in water. Part of her remit was to experiment with the reagent needed to get the best performance from the instruments.

Ms Davis's achievement was to move the protocol forward; it is now the established method within the company for checking the level of microbes present in water.

Doreen Whitlock, who has run the company since her husband, Gerald, died, believes that both the business and Ms Davis benefited from the Step programme. "It helped us decide to take on our first staff graduate — a young male microbiologist — and we are very pleased," she said. "If a vacancy exists when Zoe graduates, we will seriously consider offering her a job too, and we hope to take more Step students."

Mrs Whitlock believes the project made Ms Davis aware of the possibilities and pressures of working for a small firm, and the skills needed.



THE PICTURE PARTNERSHIP

Summer success story

WHEN Oliver Askaroff, managing director of Simplantex Health Care, took on a student through Step last summer, he could hardly have realised the effect this would have, both on his business and the student, Caroline Todd (above). "We were startled by what she achieved," he says (Sally Watts writes).

The company, at Eastbourne, East Sussex, is a brand leader in the manufacture, sale and distribution of accessories for electric scooters and wheelchairs for children and adults. Ms Todd's project was market research — the first of its kind — to discover the clothing needs of disabled people. She organised a questionnaire, arranged mailshots, conducted interviews and won publicity on television and radio. She also chose the designs and designer.

Now Simplantex is investing £185,000 in a manufacturing unit for a range of clothes for wheelchair-users. In three years, the company expects to have created 20 new jobs; seven have already been filled.

Ms Todd, a 21-year-old history undergraduate at Birmingham, won the 1995 "Most Enterprising British Student" award of £1,000.

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■ THEATRE 1

Another star of Hollywood hits the British stage: Molière beckons Elizabeth McGovern



■ THEATRE 2

Whole Lotta Shakin' is a whole lotta nothing, but Jerry Lee Lewis's songs still pack a punch

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ THEATRE 3

Polemics come up fresh from the 18th century in a revival of Holberg's *Erasmus Montanus*



■ RECITALS

Epic journey complete: the Emersons are magnificent to the last in the Beethoven quartets

Matt Wolf meets film star Elizabeth McGovern, making a British stage debut in *The Misanthrope*

Thoroughly modern Molière



DES JENSON

Elizabeth McGovern says she will create a modern "Madonna-esque" woman out of Molière's character

Elizabeth McGovern had barely graduated from high school in 1980 when Robert Redford cast her in a supporting role in his Oscar-winning *Ordinary People*. A year later the fresh-faced actress was an Oscar nominee for her performance in Milos Forman's *Ragtime*. Since then the cinema has been less than kind: does anyone remember *The Bedroom Window* or *Johnny Handsome*? But the stage has offered McGovern a home. For much of the 1980s she was a regular fixture on and off Broadway.

This week, the London resident — her husband is the BBC producer Simon Curtis — makes her British stage debut ("Don't remind me," she laughs) opposite Ken Stott in a new version of *The Misanthrope*. The Molière play, adapted by Martin Crimp, allows London to find out what New York has long known: an erstwhile teen discovery can hold her own as a classical actress.

"I had always had a passion to do theatre," says McGovern. The 34-year-old actress is talking during her lunch break backstage at the Young Vic, where she was summoned less than a week before rehearsals to replace Rachel Weisz (who, ironically, forsook the production to co-star in her first Hollywood film). "Even though I was working in movies, I was always auditioning for the stage. Either I was getting rejected, or doing awkward performances and learning by them. I feel proud of that.

"It's taken me a long time to learn how to be an actress on the stage. But I have, in the sense that not every performance I do is going to be brilliant, but I'm certainly a lot better than when I started." Indeed, McGovern spent a year at New York's Juilliard school — Kelly McGillis and Kevin Spacey were classmates — only to give up the course in order to do *Ragtime*.

She is the first to admit that her screen start was a heady one. As the showgirl Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*, McGovern dominated reviews amid a cast featuring no less a legend than James Cagney, then aged 81. The film itself was nominated for eight Academy Awards, though McGovern missed the ceremony because she was in New York filming the forgettable Dudley Moore comedy, *Lovesick*.

After such beginnings, was a fall inevitable? McGovern addresses the point with characteristic lack of pretension. "I say with great amusement that I've been slowly working my way down my whole career," she smiles. "Though I don't really feel that way: I actually feel very proud of my career." Since moving to London four years ago she has done two BBC2 *Performance* films of plays produced by Curtis: *Tales From Hollywood* (1992), with Alec Guinness, and *The Changeling* (1993) with Bob Hoskins, which was also directed by Curtis. Prior to both, she appeared in 1991 in the BBC1 adaptations of Somerset Maugham's Ashenden spy stories.

> "I had always had a passion to do theatre"

The Misanthrope, updated by Crimp to contemporary London and directed by Lindsay Posner, reconceives Molière's Celimene as Jennifer, a glamorous American film star arriving in Britain to promote her newest project. "The challenge was to create a modern woman out of a 17th-century woman," says McGovern, describing the character as "Madonna-esque" in ways. "She's not a rock star per se, but she has absorbed the Madonna message. She's comfortable with her own appetites, with that facade of 'I'm in control of my career, my choice, my sexuality, my life'. She projects the in-vogue way to be that Madonna taught us; she's a 25-year-old who has taken all that very much to heart."

Does the character tally with the sought-after McGovern of years past? "In some ways she is what I would have been if I could have pulled it off, basically: that is, someone who knows how to play the game, go to all the right parties, and embraces the game and loves it. I never really could manage to do that, so I'm having fun doing it on stage and in England."

That McGovern never gave herself over to the Hollywood system — "It was always much more alluring to go off and do plays" — is partly due to her background. Though Los Angeles-born, she was raised in an environment "about as far from show business as you could get". Her father was a law professor at UCLA; her mother teaches high school English. A film career, she says, was never inevitable. "I didn't grow up watching movies and absorbing them like mother's milk. Somehow, we existed in a world that — even though it was in LA — was far from the Hollywood people have perceptions about, especially in England."

Now a mother herself — she and Curtis have a two-year-old daughter — McGovern has shifted her focus to domestic concerns in the family's Hammersmith flat, far from a Hollywood that in any case calls less often than it once did. A spate of movies over the years has hardly shown the actress to best advantage: Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America*, for example, playing Robert De Niro's girlfriend: or *She's Having a Baby*, which wasted both her talents and those of Kevin Bacon. Everybody emerged badly from Volker Schlöndorff's chilly and ponderous 1990 film of *The Handmaid's Tale*, and the best of her recent films — Steven Soderbergh's underrated *King of the Hill* — was seen by virtually no one. Her latest feature, *Wings of Courage*, is a 3-D venture.

"I'd love to be offered a good part in a movie, believe me: I don't feel cavalier about it," says the actress. But while some might balk at keeping such a distance from the industry that launched them, McGovern sounds genuinely pleased with the unexpected path her life has taken. "Having found myself in a family with a child, I feel stronger and more grounded, I suppose, as a person, which makes me freer to enjoy my work.

"I really think it would be wise not to write Hollywood off; I worked hard for ten years and just to abandon it is not something that interests me. But most important beyond making a living is working on material that I find exciting. Without a doubt it means as much for me to be working on this play now with these people as it does to do a big Hollywood movie."

● The Misanthrope *previews from Thursday and opens next Tuesday at the Young Vic (0171-928 6363)*

Bluegrass served up with a twist

COUNTRY

Alison Krauss
Festival Hall

ALISON KRAUSS's reaction to winning four of last October's Country Music Association awards, including female vocalist of the year, must have been one of elation — and bemusement. A young veteran of bluegrass music who made her first album at 14, she suddenly found that her music of 100 per cent natural goodness had drawn in a huge audience desperate for health food. Krauss's platinum-selling *Now That I've Found You: A Collection* will shortly complete a year on both the American country and pop charts.

In Britain there has been a quieter momentum of appreciation, leading to an almost sold-out, eight-date British tour and this London show.

The hall was comfortably warmed by New York singer-writer Marcus Hummon, another of the artists helping to stir some fresh flavours into the Nashville stew. Arriving onstage with her four-piece band, Union Station, Krauss seemed every bit as nervous as on her awards night and did not speak for four numbers. But when she did, one sensed the audience giving her a collective hug. They were rewarded with a wonderful performance.

Union Station is full of the acoustic accoutrements of bluegrass, such as the mandolin, banjo, stand-up bass and sometimes two guitars in addition to Krauss's nimble fiddle. But the choice of material which has helped to open Krauss's door to the mainstream is as likely to include an old rock or pop tune from her Illinois upbringing as any rustic roots piece.

Hence, in among songs by such favourite writers as Nelson Mandrell and her own band's Ron Block, she will toss such unlikely delights as Bad Company's *Oh Atlanta* or the Foundations' *Baby, Now that I've Found You*, beguilingly restyled. The co-writer of that pop gem, John MacLeod, was in the audience to accept Krauss's humble introduction.

The group encored with Lennon and McCartney's *I Will*, the hall glowed with bonhomie, and one gave thanks to the world of awards for bringing us a nightingale.

PAUL SEXTON

Timbre of maple

JAZZ

Holly Cole
Ronnie Scott's, Birmingham

BECAUSE her first internationally released album was for Blue Note, and because she was appearing at Ronnie Scott's, it might seem obvious to classify Holly Cole as Canada's newest jazz singer. From the first dramatic notes played by her pianist, Aaron Davis, with one hand on the keys and the other damping the strings inside the piano, it was clear as her set began that she's a singer beyond category and that part of her originality is the way she has integrated her own eclectic style with her accompanying group. Many jazz singers have been most effective interpreting current pop songs. Instead, Holly Cole has creatively exploited the territory between jazz and pop, with a vocal timbre from the delicate to the brassy, faultless intonation and charismatic stage presence.

From time to time her quartet fell into the role of a conventional jazz rhythm section, though her choice of tempos and carefully shaded arrangements meant even old standards like *Que Sera Sera* took on new life. But for most of the evening Cole and her group created a range of music that travelled far beyond jazz. Some songs from her recent album, based around the work of Tom Waits, took on a country feel, others, including *Invitation to the Blues*, had overtones of Kurt Weill.

Although cabaret songs depend on a sense of the dramatic, and Cole invests all her lyrics with a touch of drama, the overall effectiveness of her work is, nevertheless, a team effort. Waits's *Train Song* took on eerie effects from Kevin Breit's slide guitar and Breit's versatility extended to some equally effective backing on mandolin and zither.

Holly Cole is already well known in Canada, with her own Internet site. Her Birmingham date was the last of only three appearances in Britain but she should equal her Canadian following on this side of the Atlantic very soon.

ALYN SHIPTON

Sharp points unhappily blunted by a dull cast

Erasmus Montanus
BAC, Battersea

YOU might call this the return of the pedantic son. Rasmus Berg is back from college and insisting that everybody calls him Erasmus Montanus. Returning to the family farm, he addresses the farm hands in Latin, syllogistically proves that his mother is a stone, and pushes his luck by announcing the world is round.

The 18th-century playwright and Latin professor Ludvig Holberg, hailed in his native Norway and Denmark as their Molière, is worth unearthing. The Gate recently brought us *Jeppe of the Hill*. Now BAC gives a second lease of life to this Greenwich Studio Theatre production about young Master Berg enraging the yokels.

Holberg's play is more than an historic comedy of manners. For all the satire of dead languages, there is a startling timelessness in this portrait of a youth pushing away his family, fixing on a new identity and fighting for his radical opinions. Holberg beat Dennis Potter to the post by a couple of centuries in depicting a college boy dropped back into his rural community.

Moreover, *Erasmus Montanus* proves to be a polemical play of ideas and a drama of rising tensions as the snubbed peasants (led by thickset David Peacock) turn the tables and bully the swot. With a hint of *The Crucible*, the superstitious villagers cry heresy on Erasmus's Copernican science. The Deacon, beaten in Latin disputation, tries to label Erasmus as demonically possessed. Holberg flicks between perspectives, ridiculing the vainglorious student, making him a mobbed missionary of the Enlightenment, or suggesting a devilish amorality in his educated arguments.

Greenwich Studio Theatre is a commendable fringe company, translating and staging little-known classics on a small budget. The downside is that the cast is not top-notch. Andrew Muir's Erasmus has the condescending preciousness of the scholar, but is too cold. There is no struggle in him when his sweetheart urges him to sacrifice his school of thought. The set, with sawdust, timbers and the odd cartwheel, has a DIY "olde worlde" look. Find a designer.

Julian Forsyth's adaptation wisely replaces the Deacon's desperate out-takes of now-obscure grammar-book Latin with common phrases: *dulce et decorum* et al. Elsewhere, however, the contrasting speeches of pedant and peasant might be more idiomatically colourful. His joint direction with Margarete Forsyth could also be sharper. Ultimately, while the Earth may not be flat, one cannot say the same of the production. Still, this play is a discovery.

KATE BASSETT

Misses between the hits

Whole Lotta Shakin'
Belgrade, Coventry

IN 1958, Jerry Lee Lewis, the Louisiana-born rock'n'roller known for hits such as *Great Balls of Fire*, took a 14-year-old bride, *Kate Bassett writes*. To aggravate matters, the girl was his cousin. The public responded with horror; television and radio stations boycotted his music; Lewis vanished off the face of the earth. Or so it seemed.

Already a none-too-cute guy, Lewis started seriously hitting the bottle and popping pills, especially after the deaths of his son and mother. Still, the man made something of a comeback, via country music, in the 1960s.

Yes, this is yet another rock star's life story recreated on stage. It is hard to believe that director Simon Usher really thinks Todd Wm Ristau's thin script is worthwhile theatre. The staging looks rather scrappy with a piano here, some amplifiers and mikes there, a rear steel balcony and photographs of Lewis in the wings. Jerry Lee ain't even dead yet, so the story ends in mid-air. But heck, the *songs* are what matters — as the star, played by Billy Geraghty, keeps telling us.

Actually, Geraghty's stage skills are also saving graces. His performance makes this show roll. Geraghty, who played Buddy Holly for three years, makes a passable Lewis with his slicked-back hair shaking loose. He also plays his white piano with real pizzazz, streaking his thumbnail up the keys and jazzily quick-slamming chords, sometimes hitting the high notes with a heel or buttock.

The thumping beat gets monotonous as the songs pile up, while the snapshots of Lewis's life cut cursorily between his late and early career (Christopher Egan plays the young Lewis). The quieter country numbers and songs infiltrated with resurfacing religion are the most interesting.

The show's portrait of Lewis is pretty simplistic, underlining the pull between his strict religious roots and his going to the devil, tempted by the swinging blues clubs in his small hometown. One might presume the lesson to be learnt is to burn your pop record collection, for therein lies Lucifer. But this piece sketches Lewis's relationships so quickly, sometimes risibly so, that we have scant chance to feel sympathies or take moral stands.

Lewis's attraction to Myra the minor (Kate Wilton) is unexplored, making their marriage seem unremarkable. Still, Geraghty's achievement is to convey seedy arrogance and still exude the cool and charisma that got the audience jiving in the aisles.

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A lively hoe-down for Beethoven

RECITALS

Emerson Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

AS THE Emerson Quartet's complete Beethoven cycle gained momentum, it became increasingly apparent that the final pair of concerts would prove the most absorbing. Such stimulating players as the Emersons were always bound to be most exciting in the composer's late quartets, but there was also the feeling that as the series — seven concerts over ten days — progressed, they communicated with the audience more directly and with greater intimacy.

Of course, no performances of this music on this level could fail to enthral. The late quartets are among the profoundest of musical utterances: they were radical in Beethoven's time and still have the power to bewilder and amaze. Their complexities cannot simply be explained away in terms of the safe haven Wagner and the late Romantics provided.

Heard chronologically, as the quartets have been on the South Bank, there is also the mystery of Beethoven's return to relative simplicity in the final work, Op 135. It has often been seen as a conscious reintegration of the language Beethoven had just dismantled. But not only did the Emersons' witty performance of Op 135 shed objective light on its transcendental predecessors, it also suggested that Beethoven was indifferent, and was looking back with a shrug.

Such bold statements as Beethoven made call for bold performances, and that is what the Emersons gave. Although their "big" tone had, at times, been overpowering in the earlier works, it was surprisingly well suited here. Their sound is based on four different musical personalities working together.

In Op 132 (A minor), which opened Thursday's concert, they evoked the hushed mystery of the beginning and threw themselves into the fierce lines that follow, but not at the expense of the movement's soaring lyricism. The central *Heiliger Dankgesang* had rapt intensity. The B flat quartet Op 130 (just out on the Emersons' new Deutsche Grammophon disc) was the highlight of both evenings. The players relished the ambiguity of the opening, dispatched the Presto with virtuosity, and brought real affection to the German dance. Their *Grosse Fuge* had vigour and attack, and an unmistakable aura of expressionist madness.

After quartets in five and six movements, Friday's concert opened with one in seven — Op 131 in C sharp minor. The Emersons caught all its many facets, but the searching lines of the slow, concentrated fugue and the stamping rhythms of the finale were especially satisfying. The more conventional Op 135 in F was no less compelling, and the lively accents of its finale suggested that these American players had stepped out of a hoe-down.

Finally, they offered the alternative ending to Op 130 that Beethoven wrote, after Op 135, to replace the *Grosse Fuge*. Its Classical sheen is a little disturbing but it provided a perfect coda to this most memorable cycle.

JOHN ALLISON

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■ VISUAL ART 1

A barrage of *hot colours* is presented in a show of new Bridget Rileys at Waddington's



■ VISUAL ART 2

The Indonesian artist Heri Dono presents Oxford with an ironic view of life in his homeland

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Glimpses of an enigma-laden private world are on show in Rose Warnock's new London show



■ TOMORROW

Liverpool learns to exploit the market for pop nostalgia with a little help from a new musical

Regiments of colour in close combat

GALLERIES: At 64, Bridget Riley shows no sign of moderating the visual demands of her art, says **Richard Cork**

Nobody could accuse Bridget Riley of pallid English reticence. Ever since she launched her first assault on our retinas, her work has never been afraid to dazzle and overwhelm. Riley is a fierce painter, flouting the stereotype of the "gentle" female artist with eye-bending verve. The toughness of her work has become legendary and in her 65th year she has no intention of dropping her guard.

Walk into her exhibition of recent paintings at Waddington Galleries and the visual barrage hits you at once. Hung at a disconcertingly low level, these high-keyed canvases pulsate with intense colour contrasts. Their surfaces are immaculate. Flat, orderly and calculated to a hair's breadth, they betray no sign of the artist's own mark-making. The paint is applied with impersonal precision. Sensuous brushwork is not permitted to seduce the viewer, or impede the clean, hard-hitting energy generated by Riley's particles of form. They demand an alert response, and have no patience with the notion of a faint-hearted viewer.

Not that the Riley of the mid-1990s is quite as combative as the young artist who emerged 35 years ago. In that eruptive early period she restricted herself to black and white. Once viewers became ambushed and ensnared, they found themselves crushed by converging walls of rectangles or pulled into fierce whirlpools. In the Tate Gallery's *Fall*, painted in 1963, undulating lines rush down the canvas like an unstoppable flood. Most of those precocious, single-minded paintings are painful to look at and demand a formidable commitment from anyone who stares at them for a time.

The Rileys at Waddington do not require quite so much perceptual stamina. The harshness of black and white has been replaced, here, by an almost profligate richness of colour. If her early work was cold, the new paintings are hot. Riley is unafraid to allow puce, orange, scarlet and maroon to play prominent roles. Even though Riley moderates them with light green, deep blue and bleached yellow, the overriding mood is one of Mediterranean radiance.

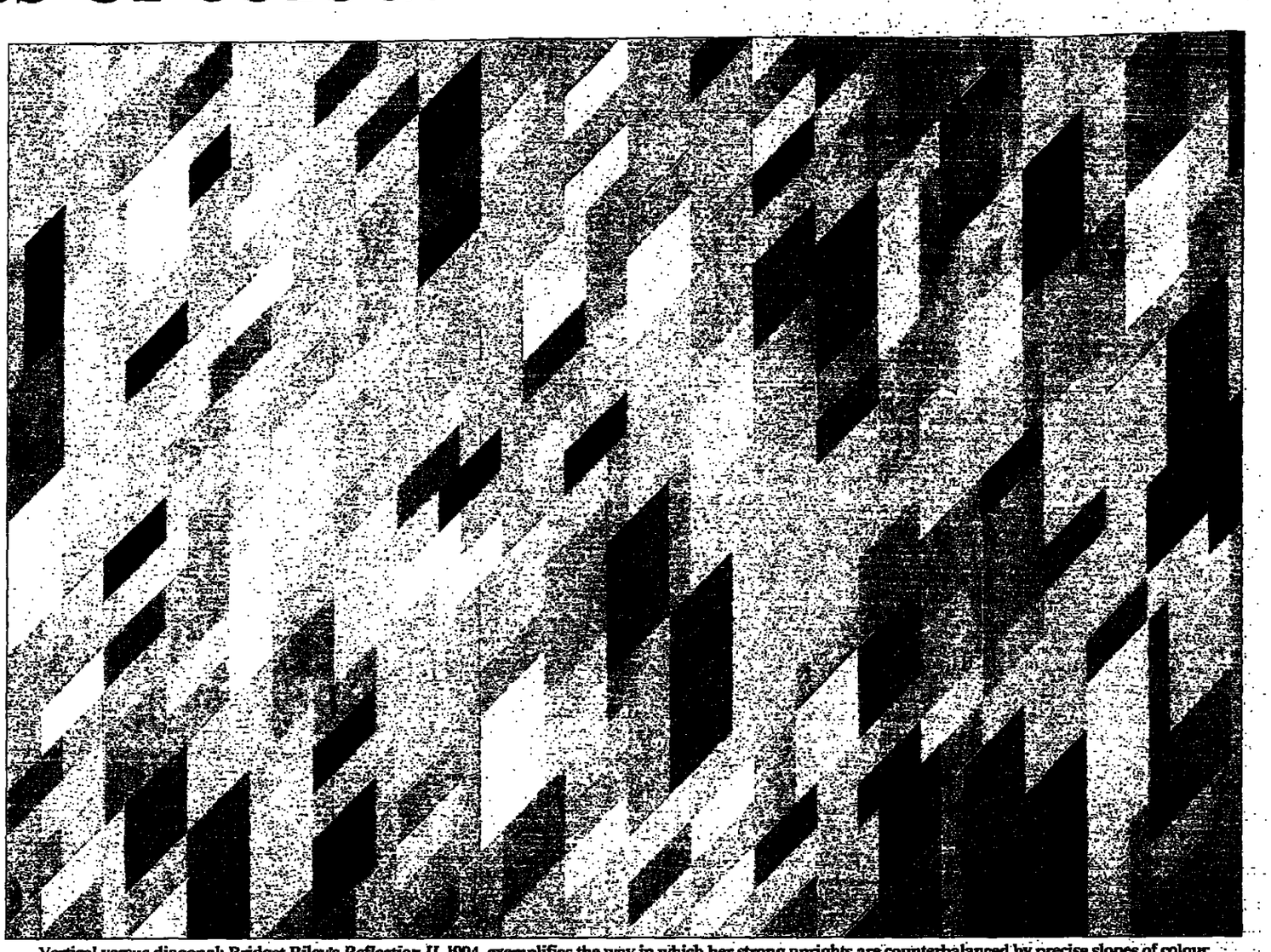
So how dependent is Riley on the stimulus of luminous surroundings? At Karsten Schubert, where her recent gouaches are on show, many of the exhibits are inscribed with the name Bassacs, where she stays in France. Executed between April and July of last year, they are all paler than the paintings and less busy in their congregation of forms. Strong uprights dominate each image, albeit sliced by diagonal intruders. They are reminiscent of trees, but Riley is enough of an abstractionist to make me wary of reading landscape references into her work. The light-suffused planes floating in these gouaches insist on a life of their own.

> "If her early work was cold, the new paintings are hot"

Like many abstract artists before her, in the High Modernist tradition to which she still proudly adheres, Riley is fascinated by the parallel between painting and music. She particularly admires *The Poetics of Music*, the lectures Stravinsky delivered at Harvard where he lauded the benefits to be derived from moving within the limits of a narrow frame. The idea that "music provides a sensual experience by the organisation of a limited range of formal means — notes, scales, intervals and their possible relationships" has a direct bearing on Riley's own hopes and ways of working.

But that does not mean she shuts herself away, refusing to be aware of visual stimuli outside the studio. Robert Kudielka, who has written extensively on her work, recalled visiting Munich with Riley on a bright March day in 1972. Leaving the great collection of Rubens in the Alte Pinakothek, they wandered across to the Hofgarten and sat at a tree-sheltered table laid with a white cloth. "It was about midday," he remembered. "A waitress brought us glasses of wine which sparkled yellow and green. The light grew brighter and stronger every minute . . . Bridget stopped and exclaimed: 'Look at it! Just *look* at it!'." There was, Kudielka went on, "nothing to look *at* in the proper sense of the word, no particular incident or object to be observed. It was rather as though we were sitting in the middle of an all-enveloping event."

Those final words apply very well to the experience on offer at Waddington. Standing in the gallery, I found myself surrounded by the vibrancy of the colours marshalled so exactingly on the wide canvases. The titles Riley has chosen for these pictures — *In Attendance*, *From Here*, *Reflection* and *August* — are free from any dependence on a specific, observed location. They do not, however, rule out the notion of an artist responding to, and meditating on, a more general apprehension of time and place. For her, looking is a central activity and she can trace it back to childhood years in Cornwall.



Vertical versus diagonal: Bridget Riley's *Reflection II*, 1994, exemplifies the way in which her strong uprights are counterbalanced by precise slopes of colour

While Barbara Hepworth was nourished by the intensity of her reaction to the landscape around St Ives, the young Riley went on clifftop walks with her mother and discovered the intoxication of looking. She was lucky: Cornwall has a special ability both to sharpen and cleanse the perceptions of the artists who live there. But she also knew how to learn from that formative experience, and apply it consistently to her work as a painter.

More, perhaps, than the majority of artists, Riley has always been highly disciplined; she imposes rigorous constraints on herself. In the Waddington exhibition, they are most apparent in the meticulous organisation of the images. Each picture is a patchwork of angular segments, systematic enough to rule out the inclusion of a single renegade curve. The proliferation of these segments generates a powerful sense of restless dynamism across the surfaces. They hover on the edge of shimmering.

But, despite her admiration for Seurat, whose exquisite *Le Pont de Courbevoie* she once carefully copied, they never become broken or blurred. Riley retains her passion for hard definition. Her recent work is as crisply structured as ever, and within its spangled complexity she ensures that every unit of form retains a clear-cut identity.

The longer we look at her paintings, though, the less confident we become about finding our bearings within their bristling facets. The diagonal movements, which seem so dominant at first, are counterbalanced increasingly by the strength of upright, pillar-like presences. However forcefully they seem to be pierced by the diagonal shafts, they stay erect. And then we notice how ambiguous they really are. Riley never lets us decide which forms are solid. She plays with possibilities continually, in an almost teasing manner. What starts out resembling a tree may well become a slice of sky.

The airiness of these new paintings is very striking. It suggests that Riley wants more and more to break up the rigidity of her pictures and let them breathe. Sometimes, in her earlier canvases, she would pack them so tightly that a distinct feeling of claustrophobia ensued.

Now, by contrast, the overall mood is more expansive. Hedonism has become a potent force, and Riley seems more prepared to let us establish our own relationship with her work. She is, perhaps, entering into a greater state of relaxation. The play of dappled light is omnipresent, encouraging us to feel blessed by its capacity to soothe. Riley is an admirer of Matisse, and what she describes as his "great shout of joy". These new paintings seem suffused with the heat and luminosity of the south, and invite us to discover an awareness of wellbeing.

Even so, I cannot imagine Riley ever likening her art, in Matisse's words, to "a good armchair in which to rest from physical fatigue". However many changes her art may undergo in the future, it will always insist on the ability to be bracing. A good Riley does its best to invigorate. It purges us of lazy ways of seeing, and invites us to scrutinise the world with renewed clarity, wonder and zest.

● *Bridget Riley at Waddington Galleries, Cork Street, London W1 (0171-437 8611) and Karsten Schubert, Charlotte Street, London W1 (0171-631 0031), until March 2*

Speaking out by lying low

The Indonesian Heri Dono has brought his art – and his protest – to England. **Sacha Craddock** reports

A large gallery upstairs at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford has been painted khaki. It is lit to appear simultaneously light and dark: an artificial twilight. Huge, bulbous tree-figures balancing on relatively delicate artificial legs amble across the gallery. Our view of the figures is like a child's: we have to look up to these strange, oversize wire-wrapped figures, with their emphatic chests and red lights on top. Military camouflage softens the gallery ceiling. Army boots, helmets and guns suggest a dangerous presence in the dusk.

Blooming in Arms, an installation by Heri Dono, a 35-year-old artist from Indonesia, is the culmination of a short residency at the museum. Dono is well-known in Japan, Australia and his own country, but this is his first exhibition here. During his stay he has made drawings, collages and watercolours (a selection of them is also on show in the library at the Institute of International Visual Arts in London). He has also given a performance in Oxford and lectured at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. Throughout his time in Britain he has repeatedly addressed the question of how to make critical, political art in Indonesia — and survive.

The installation at Moma is laden with irony. The military regime in Indonesia simultaneously encourages people to plant trees as part of a "green" policy and allows the destruction of forests in Sumatra, Kalimanjan and Irian Jaya. The figures' false legs are a reference to landmines; the militarism, of course, reflects the presence of soldiers in the country's daily life.

Not that the connection between the message and intention behind a work and its success as art is necessarily automatic. For Dono, as he says in the exhibition catalogue: "What is important is to keep the quality of the ethical problem in art. Sometimes the political idea is good but the painting is not so good."

It was while being taught at art school in Yogyakarta, on the island of Java, that Dono first came across the perennial argument between followers of the "traditional" and the "modern"; between an often artificially imposed concept of national identity, on the one hand, and the wholesale embrace of Western artistic values on the other. Dono is fascinated by tradition — his performance in Oxford was based on traditional puppet theatre — but maintains that it is no longer effective or possible for him to work in any single mode.

Dono lives, through choice, in a village away from his country's main centres. By using complicated but apparently naive methods, and by seeming simple in his approach, he creates plenty of opportunities to show his work. "I have to use tricks," he says. "I am an artist and I have to use my brain."

He explains how geographical distance from Jakarta, the capital, drunken local policemen, and a reliance on impromptu happenings have allowed him to keep one step ahead of those who would clamp down on his work. His 1994 piece, *Fermentation of Minds*, for instance — in which rows of cast heads were stuck behind rows of school desks, nodding in mechanical unison to the sound of chanting — was first seen in public when he simply put it out in front of his studio in the village. It is a matter of surviving, so that he can continue to make his art, rather than have his shows shut down. In Indonesia it is not unusual, he says, for an artist to be told an hour before an exhibition is due to open that it is not going to open at all.

The directness of his work has a lot to do with the diversity of its audience. Not only is there a multiplicity of cultural backgrounds and languages in his own country, but Dono acknowledges that a Western audience will have quite different visual expectations. By using a variety of media, from performance to painting and sculptural installation, and by mixing local satire and comic-strip narrative with a full-frontal Modernist style, he manages to cut through the particular and strike a chord of collective recognition.



Blooming in Arms, Heri Dono's Oxford installation

● Heri Dono: Blooming in Arms *at the Museum of Modern Art, Pembroke Street, Oxford (01865 722733) and Institute of International Visual Arts, Kirkman House, Whitfield Street London W1 (0171-636 1930) until Feb 11*

ABOUND THE GALLERIES

Sometimes it seems self-evident that artistic talent runs in families; sometimes it is hard to feel so sure. Certainly the talent of **Julian Bell** must come from somewhere, and it cannot be entirely coincidence that he is the son of Quentin Bell, grandson of Vanessa Bell, great-nephew of Virginia Woolf and great-grandson of Leslie Stephen. He proves to be a brilliant but unpredictable painter. He is evidently well schooled in the art of the past, and his work teems with references and echoes. He is a master of present-day Impressionism (*The Mobile Phone*), chic Neo-Classicism (*Accident in the City*), elaborate chiaroscuro (*Candaules, after Herodotus*) and other, more experimental styles.

Perhaps the most astonishing work is *Crucifixion*, which shows soldiers in vaguely modern uniforms dicing for the garment at the foot of the cross, seen *en plongée* from Christ's point of view. A variety of dramatic concepts and complete technical mastery make one wonder what Bell will do next; but it is bound to be interesting.
Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-499 6870), until March 7

☐ IT IS surprising to find that all **Christa Gaa**'s training was in Germany, because her work looks so English. Her great devotions, apparently, were to Chardin, Bonnard and Morandi, but they might just as well have been to Sickert and William Nicholson. She came to Britain in 1980, married fellow painter Ken Howard in 1990, and died in 1992, when in her 50s. The memorial show at the New Grafton Gallery covers the whole of her brief painting career, and consists mainly of watercolours and gouaches, with a handful of oils. They are about half-and-half landscape and still-life, and although the landscapes are attractive, they do not have quite that special touch of the still-lifes: for once the reference to Morandi, greatest of modern still-life painters, in two of the titles seems neither irrelevant nor impertinent.
New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Street, Barnes, SW13 (0181-748 8850), until Feb 17

☐ THE work of **John Currin** raises, in an extreme form, the question of whether artists today are to be judged primarily by what they do, or by what they say about what they are doing. What Currin, an American painter now in his early 30s, actually does is to paint slightly primitive-looking, slightly kitsch images in a broad, cartoony style. These often show lightly clad bimbos romantically entangled with bearded older men: the vision falls somewhere between Thomas Hart Benton and Donald McGill.

If Currin were showing at a gallery like, say, the Portal, it is doubtful whether any of the critical establishment would take him seriously. But instead he is showing at the ICA, and talks up a storm about himself and his knowing defiance of contemporary convention. Critics (in America, at least) have rushed in to supply comparisons with everyone from Tiepolo to Manet to Magritte. Brits may well suspect that McGill is nearer the mark.
Institute of Contemporary Art, The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647), until Feb 18

☐ AS A painter, **Rose Warnock** seems to live in a private world, where miniature mountains rear into irregular Chinese shapes, columns of smoke rise undisturbed to the unthreatening clouds, water meanders through the landscape and trees (of which there are many) seem constantly on the point of transforming themselves into something else. There are sometimes people in these pictures, mild-eyed and melancholy, as befits lotus-eaters. Some may find the pictures cloying, others see them as slightly sinister. But the skill and the sense of painting history are clear enough: this is a world that Altdorfer would recognise across the centuries. In the rear gallery downstairs there is, as usual, an historical show which in some way complements the new work.

This time it is of **Graham Sutherland**'s haunting early etchings, made in the 1920s, when he had first been awakened to the wonder of Palmer's visionary years. Whatever the judgment of posterity on Sutherland's later work, the magic of these tiny prints triumphantly survives changes of fashion.
Jason & Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, W1 (0171-434 1768), until Feb 17

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

David Storey's legendary epic
The Changing Room



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CHOICE 1

Funny to see you: Lee Evans opens a six-week West End season

VENUE: First night at the Lyric Theatre



CHOICE 2

Deborah Harry joins the Jazz Passengers in swinging Camden

VENUE: Tonight at the Jazz Café

THE TIMES
ARTS



CHOICE 3

Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* goes on stage in Exeter

VENUE: All this week at the Northcott Theatre



MUSIC

Salzburg finds yet another way to honour its most famous son: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

LONDON

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA: The exceptionally talented young American Gil Shaham joins his compatriot, conductor Hugh Wolff, and the orchestra for Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Tonight's programme opens with his overture, *Candide* and closes with Sibelius's powerful Symphony No 5 **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7 30pm.

LEE EVANS: Opening night for the rubber-boned comedian, in the West End for a six-week season **Lyric**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 8 30pm

JAZZ AROUND TOWN: International supremos **Cleo Laine and John Dankworth** return for a brief season to revel in the cabaret setting of the Green Room. Meanwhile the **Jazz Passengers** and **Deborah Harry** turn up in Camden with their potent combination of music and comedy, drawing on the traditions of great big bands like the Art Ensemble of Chicago and Louis Armstrong's Hot Five **Green Room**, Café Royal, Regent Street, W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight-Feb 24, 9 15pm. No perf Sun or Mon. **Jazz Café**, 15a Parkway, NW1 (071-916 6060). Doors open 7pm

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: The **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** opens its star-studded spring series, Mozart's Vienna. Frans Brüggen conducts, with soprano Nancy Argenta and fortepianist Ronald Brautigam. Broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 FM **St George's**, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359). Tonight, 7 30pm.

BUXTON: Austen-mania continues, and the Good Company resumes its tour of **Pride and Prejudice**. Frances Cuka plays Mrs Bennet, Jonathan Cecil plays her long-suffering husband, and Cornelia Hayes O'Herlihy and Mark Healy play Elizabeth and Darcy; Sue Pomeroy directs **Opera House**, Water Street (01298 72190). Tonight-Sat, 7 30pm, mats Thurs, 1 30pm and Sat, 2 30pm

EXETER: Mike Alfreds's excellent Method and Madness company offers two more great classics. Hardy's most controversial novel, **Jude the Obscure**, and the other balcony play, Coward's *Private Lives*. Geraldine Alexander, Martin Marquez, Simon Robson and Abigail Thaw make up the ensemble **Northcott**, Stocker Road (01392 54853). *Jude*: Tonight-Fri, 7 30pm; Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 1 30pm. *Private*: Feb 12-16, 7.30pm, Feb 17, 2 30 and 8pm.

WOKING: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winning **Hysteria**. Acclaimed as the funniest serious play in London during its Christmas run **New Victoria**, Peacocks Arts Centre (01483 761144). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Contemporary British Tapestry (0171-638 4141). **British Museum**: Images from the Western Lake revival of colour print in contemporary China (0171-636 1555) **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery**: Materials and Methods of Portrait Sculpture (0171-306 0055). **Tate**: Picturing Blackness in British Art (0171-887 8000). **V & A**: Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500). **Whitechapel**: Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

Mozart's second homecoming

Stanley Sadie visits a new celebration of Salzburg's favourite son



The old ballroom, the Tanzmeistersaal, is now part of the Mozart-Wohnhaus museum

Everyone who has been to Salzburg knows the Mozart birthplace museum, the Geburtshaus, by far the most popular composer museum in the world. Fewer will know the city's second Mozart museum. Until now this has been a decidedly modest affair, but since his birthday on January 27 it has become a serious rival attraction.

The new museum is in what is called the Mozart-Wohnhaus, or Mozart's Residence, in Makart-Platz on the opposite side of the river from the old part of the city where he was born. The family moved there in 1773 when Wolfgang was 17 and father Leopold had finally decided that they were unlikely to escape from Salzburg and had better make the best of it. They moved to a spacious first-floor apartment in what was then Hannibal-Platz, a part favoured by noble families.

There was room here for Leopold to trade in musical instruments and to take in resident pupils. The building was known as the Tanzmeisterhaus; it had been the property of a French dancing master earlier in the century, and the main hall, the Tanzmeistersaal, was still used for balls.

The half of the house lived in by the Mozarts was destroyed by bombs in 1944. The International Mozart Foundation had had designs on it long before then, but the owner eventually sold the site for development and, in spite of opposition, a six-storey office block was put up in the early 1950s. Mercedes cars were sold from the Mozart house.

But with the approach of 1991, the bicentenary year of Mozart's death, the foundation was able to raise enough funds to buy the office block. Demolition began in April 1994 and the foundation stone of the new building was laid in June.

The basic intention was to replicate the original building, at least at the first-floor level where the Mozarts lived. Broadly, this has been done: the three rooms along the Makart-Platz frontage and those round the corner along the Schwarzstrasse are much as they were.

The Tanzmeistersaal ballroom is the point of entry: used for small-scale concerts in recent years, this room is now restored in pale green and greyish white (the colours that careful scraping of the layers of paint suggest were used in Mozart's time) and has the famous Mozart family portrait by Johann Nepomuk della Croce as well as showcases, subtly lit, with exhibits chiefly concerned with Mozart works dating from his years in the house — such as the Haffner Serenade and the early piano concertos — and the games played by the Mozarts in the house and its garden. There are also a variety of keyboard instruments.

The theme of the museum is "The Mozarts and their Salzburg Context 1773-80"; its motif is an obelisk. Two are inscribed on the doorway. A giant glass one, bearing lettering in black, dominates the first front room of the Mozart apartment, which shows letters and operatic music from his years in the house (and broadcasts excerpts over the individual handsets); Mozart's tea and sugar box is here too. The next room, dedicated to Leopold, has two large obelisks, enclosing books from his own collection; the corner room is dedicated to Nannerl.

These are simply exhibit rooms, but the next, a large one with an alcove, is furnished, lightly, with pieces of the period — in some degree an evocation of Mozart family life. A further obelisk in the fifth room publicises the New Mozart Edition, prepared by the International Mozart Foundation, and shows a map of Mozart's travels: the visitor can illuminate any of the journeys and can see appropriate scenes on monitors while listening on the handset to matching music. A still more appealing use of modern technology comes in the slide-show room, where half a dozen projectors, some with revolving mirrors, some with zoom, offer a carefully co-ordinated and visually beguiling account of Mozart and Salzburg, in six languages, with appropriate music.

Some museumgoers might feel, not unreasonably, that the opportunities offered by the house that Mozart lived in are only half acknowledged. There is not much here to suggest the man or his personality; curiously, Leopold Mozart emerges perhaps more forcefully than his son. One is more conscious of artful design than of atmosphere or of the house as *locus genii*. But the new museum does appeal rather more than does the Geburtshaus, in its recently refurbished design, where the Mozart family rooms are unbelievably sparse.

Last month's opening ceremonies were partly an acknowledgement of the many and generous patrons who made the new museum possible, and especially the Japanese, notably Dai-Ichi Mutual Life, who played a central role in the funding. The artists at the opening events included the Berg Quartet in a taut, rather nerve-edge performance of two Mozart string quartets and Berio's *Notturno*. Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert gave a rousing performance of Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* that thrilled the audience, and the Vienna Philharmonic was conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt in Beethoven and, of course, Mozart.

Saved by the fiddler

CONCERTS

Orchestre de Paris/Bychkov
Barbican

How nice it would be if every performance in the series — or even most of them — would vindicate the marketing tag of the Barbican's "Great Orchestras of the World". It has to be said that only the presence of their guest soloists really lifted the playing of the Orchestre de Paris, under Semyon Bychkov, to anything like the expected standard.

The outstanding event of their two-day visit was Maxim Vengerov's performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. With every sinew of his body extended to seek out and stretch the work to its expressive limits, Vengerov fused passionate involvement in every passing second with a poised nobility of overview. There was so often a heady new excitement in the bite of the bow as it tracked the ascents and descents of the opening movement. There was a lucid line of song at the work's centre. And the finale braced itself into new, vital contours by accents and upbeats which redefined and surprised.

Vengerov, who always seems eager to play on and on into the night, gave two rapturously received encores: Kreisler's outrageous *Caprices Viennois* and *Chinois*. He made the Mendelssohn sound urgent; something that could hardly be said of the UK premiere of Gilbert Amy's *Trois scènes pour orchestre*, commissioned by the French Government and the Orchestre de Paris to celebrate Amy's 60th birthday this year.

Competently enough written, these symphonic scenes ("the staging of an imaginary opera plot", according to the composer) bore all the heavy trademarks of Boulez-style post-serialism.

Colourful of a concerto for orchestra at least gave individual sections their head, as did the final performance of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. There were those bright woodwind characters, shamelessly coarse brass and there, too, was the enthusiasm and vitality.

Its musical discipline and understanding — and, of course, that of Semyon Bychkov — did not extend to Mahler's Second Symphony. This was an episodic caricature of a performance, edgy and ragged, and ennobled only by the committed singing of mezzo-soprano Jard van Nes, soprano Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz, and the London Symphony Chorus.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Triumphant return for Peter Hall a production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penne Downie **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **JOLSON:** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler **Victoria Palace**, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL:** Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co, to follow their enjoyable *The Streets of Dublin* **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **O ISABELLA!** A shape-changing house, stones that become real at night, and a pot of basil (thank you, Mr Keats)· the Alison Andrews Co present their latest collaborative piece. **BAC**, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 8 30pm. Until Feb 25

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE:** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5 30pm

◪ **STANLEY:** Antony Sher plays Stanley Spencer, the painter whose closest connections with women were odd. Pam Gems's new biographical. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7 30pm

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**, Phoenix (0171-867 1044) · □ **Crazy for You**, Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) · □ **Dead Guilty**, Apollo (0171-494 5070) ◪ **Fame - The Musical**, Cambridge (0171-494 5083) ◪ **Les Misérables**, Palace (0171-434 0909) ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**, Adelphi (0171-344 0055) · □ **The Woman in Black**, Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG): Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams. Director, Charles Shyer **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

KATIA ISMAILOVA (18): Slight but seductive Russian tale of thwarted passion, crime and punishment; director, Valeri Todorovski **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

LES MISERABLES (12): Unwieldy variation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Lelouch, with Jean-Paul Belmondo **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, race-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): Crisis point for a woman writer of romantic fiction. Surprisingly sober and tender drama from Pedro Almodovar **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15): Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon. **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

Notting Hill Coronet ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack. **Empire** ◪ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's man problems. With Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett. **MGMs: Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tomor 7.30 THE PEARL FISHERS

LA BOHEME. THIS WEEK WED - SAT The Centenary Production. Fully staged in the Round with International cast. Royal Albert Hall - February 1st-10th. Tickets £13.50 - £57.00. Box Office: 0171 589 8212.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Opera: Thur, Mon 7.00 THE MIDSUMMER MARRIAGE Sat 7.00 SAMSON ET DALILA The Royal Ballet: Tom't 7.30 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY Tomor (First Night), Fri 7.30 Ashton's RHAPSODY/NEW HARY BALLET/NEW PAGE PAS DE DEUX/MacMillan's THE INVITATION

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards Including BEST MUSICAL Starring PETULA CLARK 24-HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 6565 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8,Mats Thu 3,Sat 5 4 WEEKS ONLY! THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL by Willis Hall

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LAW

● DISPUTES BILL FIGHTS OFF FOREIGN RIVALS 39

Injured people have to fight hard for their rights in expensive and tortuous legal actions. But not all claims are as strong as the case study below


ANDY WATTS

Theatre of the absurd: the problems of cost and delay in the field of medical claims bedevil all personal injury cases and expose the system's flaws

Accidents do happen

*But how should such cases be dealt with in the courts? **Frances Gibb** on the reforms of Lord Woolf*

A huge question mark looms over how the legal system in the year 2000 will be handling people's claims for injuries. Law suits over accidents, medical mistakes, drugs or defective products are among the most expensive and tortuous in the civil courts. They can also be some of the most emotional. People with devastating injuries find themselves embroiled in a complex legal system which, by its adversarial nature, only adds to their pain (see right).

Lord Woolf, the law lord appointed by the Lord Chancellor to investigate the problems of civil justice and to recommend reforms, wants a change of culture. He has already outlined a series of radical reforms to make the system less lawyer-driven; to impose tight time limits on hearings and to make judges trial managers.

Last week he issued a dossier of six consultation papers on some of the most intractable problems, including medical negligence, group actions (usually drugs or products) and the general issues of cost and expert evidence.

The problems of cost and delay bedevil all personal injury cases — but with medical accidents, the system is exposed at its worst. First, it is harder with such cases to establish causation and liability than with any other accident claims. Doctors' insurers — and doctors themselves — may strongly contest liability: in many cases, there may be no single identifiable cause of injury as with other accidents. Doctors are also understandably protective of their professional reputations, which they may feel are being wrongly impugned. Further, investigations, which require increasingly expert medical witnesses, are costly and protracted. All these problems, Lord Woolf said, may be aggravated by "distrust and hostility on the part of one or more of the parties".

With medical negligence there is also the issue of


Woolf: investigating problems of civil justice

funding. Nearly all medical negligence claims — as with those over drugs or products — are pursued with legal aid because of the excessively disproportionate costs involved. But whereas most accident claims are successfully settled, that is not so with medical negligence cases. It means what Lord Woolf called an "enormous" drain on the public purse.

Sir Tim Chessells, chairman of the Legal Aid Board, told a recent conference held by AVMA (the Association for Victims of Medical Accidents) that medical negligence claims in the year ending 1994 cost the health service £125 million. The total is now thought to have reached £150 million. Of some 12,000 medical negligence cases closed by the board in the year up to March 1994, only 12 per cent were successful; the normal success rate in personal injury claims is more than 90 per cent.

There is some concern (among the British Medical Association, the Bar Council and Lord Chancellor's Department) that the legal aid scheme funds too many unmeritorious claims. Dr Anthony Barton, a doctor who works with a law firm, points to arguably the biggest legal aid injustice: that the legally aided plaintiff does not have to pay the other side's costs if he loses. "The risks of litigation are thus tilted in favour of the plaintiff who has nothing to lose, against the defendant (and any insurer) who has nothing to gain but usually incurs irrecoverable expense."

Although legal aid is outside Lord Woolf's remit, his proposals will have a knock-on effect for the £1.4 billion legal aid budget. He was unequivocal about the need for change. There was, he said, a "heavy onus on both the legal and medical professions to find a better way to resolve allegations of medical negligence than exists at present".

Sarah Leigh, a specialist medical negligence solicitor who is co-ordinating the work for Lord Woolf in this area, has put forward various proposals to make the settling of claims more just and economical. The idea is to keep disputes out of the courts where possible by adopting agreed codes of practice for handling disputes. This would include record-keeping and reporting of accidents to help hospitals to dispose more quickly of claims, without litigation.

Smaller claims of up to £3,000, where victims often just want an explanation or apology, could be handled in-house, by trained hospital "claims managers". The Woolf paper asks if such mediation or in-house settlement should be compulsory for these cases.

When cases do come to trial, the approach should be more inquisitorial. Lawyers and judges should be specially trained. If cases move towards trial, there should also be agreed procedures to govern mutual disclosure of material and simultaneous investigation, where possible.

The proposals here chime with those for other civil claims: judges to take control of the pace of trials; the possibility of using a single expert witness, either appointed by the court or agreed by the parties; and a fast-track procedure for claims of up to £10,000 where there is a limit (say £3,500) on costs which can be recouped.

The most controversial of these is the idea for a single expert; and the compulsory settling of smaller claims without a court hearing. Janet Sayers, a partner with Kennedys, a law firm which acts for defendant insurers in medical negligence and product liability cases, says: "We endorse the thrust of the inquiry as seeking to reduce litigation costs, improve speed and efficiency." But she is "strongly opposed to a single expert, jointly instructed, determining issues of professional negligence", and to small claims being resolved without a hearing.

Whatever the outcome, the question of future funding is critical so that people can pursue legitimate claims, and public funds are not wasted. But above that, Lord Woolf believes there needs to be a change of attitude: first, to develop a culture in which it is accepted that "doctors, like others, make mistakes". Secondly, when a mistake is made, it needs to be swiftly and publicly acknowledged, so victims receive adequate compensation without the need to battle with both legal and medical professions en route.

Legal insult added to personal injury

The bitter criticisms of the legal system made last week by Ron Lipsius, one of the King's Cross Tube station fire victims, were a reminder to Lord Woolf of failures in civil justice which he is trying to rectify.

Mr Lipsius compared his seven-year fight for compensation, for hands so badly burnt that he can no longer earn a living as a professional guitarist, to the trauma of the 1987 fire itself, in which 31 people died including the person with whom he was travelling. Mr Lipsius, now 39, said London Transport (LT) had shown no sympathy, but prolonged his suffering with its unbending opposition. "People were killed," he said, "and they threw the survivors to the legal sharks."

CASE STUDY


Lipsius: "The survivors were thrown to the legal sharks"

His case was no worse than many other personal injury claims in the civil courts — and better than some, where liability is not even admitted. But its details have refuelled debate over the proposals so far floated by Lord Woolf for reform. One prominent plaintiff solicitor described Lord Woolf as "naive", and questioned his awareness of the antagonistic tactics of many commercial organisations faced with personal injury claims.

Mr Lipsius issued his writ in January 1989. LT admitted liability and made interim payments totalling £225,000. But it did not agree any actual amounts of expenditure. Mr Lipsius was told only in December 1995 that £40,000 for his years of physiotherapy and £21,451 for surgery on his hands had been "properly incurred". Some minor items were also agreed then, such as £50 for the trousers burnt in the fire.

In January 1995 LT transferred the papers from its in-house litigation department to the City firm Herbert Smith. Howard Watson, handling the case, offered no more than the £225,000. Mr Lipsius's solicitor, Patrick Allen, then applied for a court date and amassed statements from 43 surgical, psychiatric and musical witnesses, including a 62-page statement from Mr Lipsius himself. Costs escalated dramatically.

Defendant witnesses included Maxwell Britnain, a musician, who produced a report highly critical of Mr Lipsius's pre-fire guitar playing. An employment expert, Mary Groves, was to testify to Mr Lipsius's ability, in current market conditions, to land a telesales job. The defendant, meanwhile, paid £500,000 into court. This offer, refused by Mr Lipsius, was increased to £600,000, then to £650,000 on the Friday before the trial's scheduled start. This fell below the lowest of Mr Lipsius's three future earnings claims, £700,000.

The legal costs were estimated at £200,000. With £225,000 already paid, Mr Lipsius faced potential financial ruin if he failed to increase that payment. On January 29 he accepted £650,000, to cover all treatment, loss of earnings and all other loss caused by the fire. "You just have to settle for less," he said, disappointed and battle-weary, "or go through an incredible amount of stress and maybe get less."

Costs, for which LT is liable, are estimated at £300,000. Mr Allen denounced the aggression with which the case was fought, saying Mr Lipsius should have been given the benefit of the doubt: "Every case is taken on as a war. The defendants could have settled earlier and saved themselves money."

A spokesman for London Transport said it was "inappropriate" to discuss individual cases but that LT had "always expressed sympathy for the King's Cross fire victims and their families". She added that if Mr Lipsius had thought the settlement unfair, he could have proceeded to trial.

Ian Walker, a partner in the plaintiff firm, Russell Jones and Walker, and executive committee member of APIL, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said insurance litigation is increasingly aggressive. "Insurance companies are not there for plaintiffs. They are there for themselves. Some take ridiculous positions on liability and miserly attitudes to damages. Lord Woolf is naive about how the system works," Mr Walker said. "Many insurers fail to apply cost-benefit analysis, or are simply incompetent."

Lord Woolf says: "I recognise the present system is unequal. I am not saying I am producing a perfect system but I am making the balance fairer." Mr Lipsius's remarks contrast starkly with the standard verbose discussions about the Woolf reforms: "I was treated as the enemy, the nightmare on the balance sheet. Lawyers fall into this, convincing themselves they are just doing a job."

DAVID CONN

Order out of chaos

THE BAR Council has mounted a furious lobbying campaign to get as many chambers as possible to sign up to its new Pupillage Application Clearing House scheme (PACH) in time for the February 16 application deadline. David Penry-Davey QC, the chairman of the Bar Council, has been telephoning heads of chambers to press them to join. He describes the response as "very encouraging".

Food for thought

MAGISTRATES in Richmond, Surrey, have been practising the kind of hands-on case management which judges are being encouraged to display. A report in the *Richmond & Twickenham Times* describes how magistrates refused a temporary drinks licence for a parent-teacher association party at Sheen Mount School, after police said there would not be enough food. The bench advised Philip Crowther, the man in charge of catering, to discuss his menu with police. When he returned next day and announced that a chicken casserole would be served, magistrates had no reservations about granting a licence.

City slicker

WHICH law firm did City giant Clifford Chance turn to when it found itself sued for C$1.3billion (£610million) by four Canadian banks which have lost money in the Canary Wharf bankruptcy? The firm declined to name its lawyers. But the solicitor charged with the job of saving Clifford Chance from writing a very large cheque — the lawyer's lawyer, he could claim to be — is partner Michael Seymour at fellow City firm Lovell White Durrant.

OUTS

Hearing aid

IF YOU want to hear your lawyers' voices before you instruct them, try calling a firm such as Lewis Silkin. If you progress far enough into the firm's automatic answering system, you will access a programme where each of the firm's lawyers in turn tells you their name and extension number. Some are very slow and precise. Some hurry. Some politely say thank you. Some try to break the mould with a trendy approach. But perhaps the ones to avoid are those who get the message wrong, and forget to mention their number at all.

Home thoughts

ARE THE judges getting nervous about offending Michael Howard? The National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) was given leave to go ahead with its judicial review of training plans only after Mr Justice Sedley asked for an undertaking that they would not be challenging the Home Secretary on grounds of reasonableness. Counsel for Napo, Edward Fitzgerald, told the court that he thought it "questionable" that judges could extract such an undertaking and that it was contrary to public policy.


Penry-Davey: asking chambers to join

Proper English

DAN NEIDLE and Simone Murray from the University of London Union won the European inter-varsity debate against stiff competition from across Europe. Michael Boots, of the University of Leiden in Holland, which also made it through to the finals, won the best speaker award.

City law firm Clifford Chance sponsored the event and its senior partner, Keith Clark, says: "Such was the quality of the speakers that the panel had quite a heated debate itself to choose the winning team. We were delighted that a continental European team reached the final for the first time, although it was somewhat sobering to concede that the most articulate speech was delivered by a Dutch student."

Charity challenge

TWO SOLICITORS — William Simmonds and Nicholas Woolf — from the law firm Woolf Simmonds have participated in the seventh Monte Carlo Challenge to raise funds for Barnardos. The five-day challenge, for vintage and classic cars, is said to be the toughest of its type. The lawyers drove a 1960 Morris Mini which they bought for the occasion. The pair are inviting donations; call 0171-262 1266 for details, or send cheques payable to Barnardos to the firm's office.

Bar work

THE BAR'S new complaints system is expected to cost up to £150,000 to put into place this autumn. The existence of the new system, through which people will be able for the first time to bring complaints of shoddy work against barristers, is likely to prompt more complaints than the current 450 a year — itself an increase of 24 per cent on the year before. David James, head of professional standards and services at the Bar Council, says in *Bar News* that this is causing an "almost intolerable strain in terms of workloads" and "excessive backlogs and thus delays". Meanwhile, opponents of the new scheme may still seek to force a second ballot or even a judicial review which could delay the scheme until next year.

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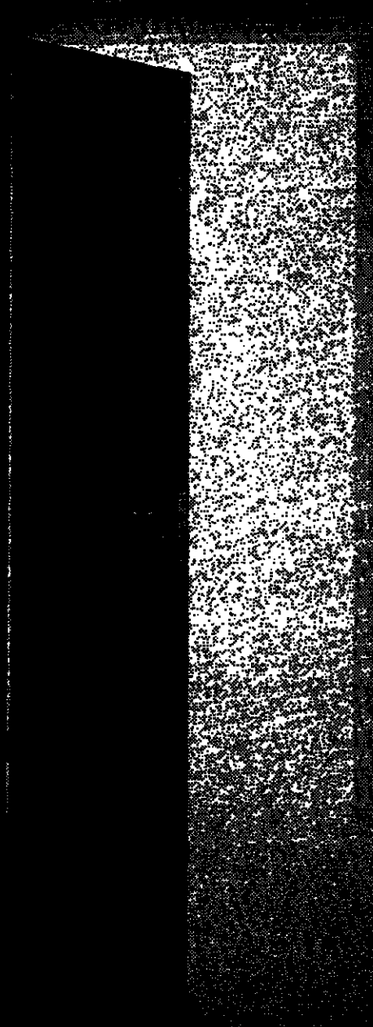
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■ If you would like to be a 3i lawyer, please write, with a full cv, to: Claire Martin, HR Department, 3i plc, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP. Applications must be received by 20th February 1996.

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Help consumers fight for their rights.

4 Lawyers
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Central London
(relocating to Hertford June 1996)

Consumers' Association, publishers of Which? Magazine, is an influential voice in the field of consumer law and campaigns energetically for the rights of its members and consumers in general. We also offer a unique service called Which? Personal Service, which offers subscribers expert legal help with consumer problems for a fixed fee. One of its great advantages is that it enables members to fight for justice in cases that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive.

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If you want to help Consumers obtain access to justice, you'll find it very rewarding. We're looking for qualified Solicitors and Barristers who are good at organising a large caseload and have a keen interest in consumer issues. That's our minimum requirement, but we'd like you to give us other reasons in a letter.

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Written applications by 20th February, in strict confidence and marked 'for personal attention' to:
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Charles Russell is a City law firm with an expanding practice in both corporate and private client sectors. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

Applications will be treated in confidence.

Frances Gibb reports on the battle to defend London as the arbitration capital of the world

Disputes Bill fights off foreign rivals

London's reputation as the world centre for arbitration — an industry worth many millions of pounds — is facing challenge. A large proportion of arbitrations involve a foreign company or individual and huge volumes of commercial and international work is generated from the settling of their disputes.

For two centuries, the City of London's place as the arbitration capital of the world has been unrivalled. But increasingly other business centres — in France, Sweden, Holland and the Far East — are trying to seize a share of the business. Now the industry is fighting back. The Arbitration Bill, at present going through Parliament with all-party support, is set to revolutionise the law and the practice of arbitration, both domestic and international.

The Bill is the brainchild of Lord Justice Saville, the Court of Appeal judge who formerly headed the commercial court. Almost single-handed, he has rewritten all existing law on arbitration into a single statute, and also modernised procedure in line with the trend towards more user-friendly ways of settling disputes.

The problem, he says, is that the law was scattered in a diffuse body of (often arcane) cases which made it hard for people to understand or find. The statute law is also spread across three Acts — in 1950, 1975 and 1979 — each largely a reaction to tackle perceived defects in the common law.

"We have highly developed rules and principles governing all aspects of arbitration, which is one of the main reasons why this country has been and still is a world centre for arbitration. But there is a major defect in that it is very difficult, without expert legal knowledge, to find even the most basic of the rules and principles governing arbitration," Lord Justice Saville says.

There are other criticisms. Arbitration is in vogue as a way of resolving disputes outside the courts. The parties agree to appoint an arbitrator, usually an expert in the field, and the hearing will take place in private. The idea is that it provides a quicker and cheaper way to settle disputes than going to court. But many arbitrations have become bogged down in court-like procedures, and got slower and more costly.

> Many arbitrations have become bogged down in court-like procedures and got more costly

For ten years there has been a movement to reform arbitration law. There was consensus on the need for reform, but not on how to do it. In 1985 the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted a model law on international arbitration. The Department of Trade and Industry then set up an advisory committee under Michael (now Lord) Mustill, the law lord, on whether the model should be adopted in place of our laws. The committee in 1989 decided against, but recommended all existing law be replaced with a new Act, using the language and framework of the model law.

That led in February 1994 to a draft Bill from the DTI which was essentially a consolidation measure. It was widely criticised. "It quickly became apparent from the large number of responses to the draft that this was not what was wanted," Lord Justice Saville recalls. In November 1994, he was appointed to take over chairing the committee from Lord Steyn (who had replaced Lord Mustill). His committee scrapped the Bill and began from scratch. It suggested a new structure which follows a step-by-step guide to arbitration, starting with general principles and the scope of arbitration agreements; how to begin proceedings, appointing an arbitral tribunal, its powers, how it should be conducted and so on. "Every attempt was made to set out the provisions in ordinary English, without recourse to legalese. The idea was, in short, to provide a narrative which an ordinary person could read, and from which such a person could learn what arbitrating in England entailed."

The committee produced a draft which was published as an interim report. On the basis of that, parliamentary counsel was then brought in to draft a new Bill. The whole process has been remarkably quick. The first draft was out by July 1995, responses made in the summer, further drafts produced and a final Bill introduced in the Lords last December. The judge took just March 1995 off from judging to work on what became the interim report and then a couple of weeks in October for the final draft.



Lord Justice Saville: almost single-handed he has rewritten all existing law on arbitration

The Bill is more than just a radical rewriting of the law. First, it strictly limits the right of appeal to the courts against an arbitration finding. One criticism of arbitration is that if one party does appeal, the courts have been too ready to overturn the finding. The courts will now be able to intervene in only limited circumstances. Secondly, it seeks to tackle the criticism that some arbitrations have become mini-courts.

The Bill imposes a statutory duty on arbitrators to adopt procedures suitable to the dispute; makes clear that hearings do not even have to be oral; and that it may sometimes be appropriate to adopt an inquisitorial approach.

One crucial reform will concentrate the minds of those using arbitration: the Bill provides that unless the parties otherwise agree, the tribunal may set a limit on the legal costs which they can recover, whatever they spend in practice. This will keep down costs. Lord Justice Saville argues; and prevent the inequality where one party, with bigger financial resources, "spends a lot of money on the case in the hope of frightening the other into settling".

What has emerged is tailor-made for the London arbitration industry of the future. Lord Justice Saville pays tribute to his committee, including Arthur Marriott, a solicitor who "kept alive the idea that we could do something like this and that it was what was wanted".

But the DTI gives full credit to his own contribution. Jonathan Evans, the minister who saw the Bill published, said: "The work he has done is remarkable, in co-operation with the DTI and parliamentary counsel — and the universal view is that the Bill will make a great contribution in ensuring that London maintains its pre-eminence in arbitration work."

The money experts take legal action

Catrin Griffiths looks at the *law firms set up by accountants*

Legal feathers have been ruffled this week with the news that the accountancy firm, Price Waterhouse, is setting up an associated legal practice in direct competition with law firms. The firm is following in the footsteps of Arthur Andersen's lightning strike at the legal scene in February 1993, when the world's biggest accountancy firm established Garrett & Co.

"Price Waterhouse UK has been only too aware of what Andersen has done with Garrett," says Ian Taplin, Price Waterhouse's tax partner. "We have been monitoring it to see if we could do something similar."

> It will enhance our service to clients

Setting up Price Waterhouse's legal arm is being done by Chris Arnheim, Hammond Suddards' City partner, who approached the firm early last year. No stranger to start-up ventures, Mr Arnheim — who was still negotiating exit terms at press time — established Hammond's corporate practice in London four years ago.

Because Price Waterhouse is constrained by Law Society rules disallowing multidisciplinary practices and formal fee-sharing arrangements, it can only opt for the same route as was taken with Garrett & Co: setting up a separate law firm but selling it as the first step to a one-stop shop. "It is a potential enhancement of our service to clients," says Mr Taplin. "We have a vision of developing a good quality commercial capability in a fairly short period of time."

Price Waterhouse's confidence in the immediate growth of the venture is underlined by the fact that it has allocated office space for ten lawyers. Now that there are two major accountancy firms in the market for legal services, the UK corporate lawyers — initially sceptical about Garrett & Co — cannot ignore the threat to the legal status quo. "I welcome the move — it shows we're in the right market at the right time," says Julia Chain, Garrett & Co's managing partner.

According to Mr Taplin, Price Waterhouse made the move in order to fill the gap in its European network, which covers France, Spain, Portugal and Germany. However, UK lawyers are unlikely to see it as anything other than a challenge to corporate practices here. "It is clearly a challenge to law firms," says Bill Tudor John, a senior partner in City firm, Allen & Overy. "As soon as Arthur Andersen moved into the area it was obvious that other firms would follow."

Price Waterhouse's venture will almost certainly flush out other major accountancy practices which have been quietly circling the legal market. The accountants could certainly tap into the dissatisfaction felt by partners in mid-tier commercial law firms. As one senior insolvency lawyer puts it: "The phones will be hot. It could turn the legal profession on its head."

● *The author edits* Legal Business *magazine*

FAB FEB

BANKING/FINANCE to £40,000
With 1-3 years' pqe in all aspects of lending and recovery in a highly commercially orientated banking department, you will find this City firm's approach to property finance transactions refreshingly progressive. With a dozen lawyers in this team, the instructions are of the highest calibre owing much to its well managed approach. Prospects outstanding for forward looking junior assistant. First class remuneration.

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Highly respected City firm with range of international offices and clients requires 2-4 year qualified lawyers with quality projects experience likely to have embraced non-contentious energy work and banking matters. You will join an outstanding department committed to enabling its assistants to develop rounded legal experience as well as allowing for plenty of foreign travel.

CORPORATE TAX to £39,000
City major with string of international offices and outstanding public company clientele require corporate taxation specialist with up to three years' pqe to join this highly respected team. Much of its workload is self generated acting in an advisory and regulatory capacity. Other work is corporate support related. This go-ahead firm provides excellent training and career prospects.

KELLYFIELD CONSULTING

The above represents a small proportion of our recent instructions. For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 937 6894 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET. Confidential fax: 0171 588 7020.

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The second solicitor must be able to demonstrate some knowledge of planning/environmental law with a proven desire to build a career in this field. The successful candidate may be recently qualified or may have more experience, perhaps in other areas of law.

Both candidates will be outgoing and self motivated, and keen to take an active role in a growing team. Salary and package of benefits will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Please write with curriculum vitae to Carolyn Lord, Peter Wilbraham & Co, Minerva House, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5PS.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Development Office/Law Faculty
Development Executive (Law)
Academic-related Administrative Grade 3
(Salary £22,374 - £26,430)

The University wishes to appoint a Development Executive to help formulate, and then to implement, a unified strategy for raising money for the development of legal studies throughout the University. The postholders will be required to work closely with academics of the Law Faculty, with Development Office colleagues and, where appropriate, with College Development Directors, as well as with outside volunteers to help identify potential donors. The ability to provide professional support and advice for an interdisciplinary fund-raising team is an essential attribute. Candidates, who should preferably be graduates but not necessarily of law, should show an understanding of (or an interest in learning about) Oxford University, its structures, how it functions and what its financial needs are. A knowledge of the legal profession would be desirable but is not essential. The post demands initiative, tact, sensitivity, organisational ability, and excellent inter-personal and IT/computing skills. Fund-raising experience, preferably in a university, would be useful.

This is a fixed-term three-year appointment on Academic-related Administrative Grade 3 (£22,374-£26,430) but an appointment at Grade 2 (£16,828-£21,430) may be offered with some consequential adjustment in duties for a person with less experience and/or qualifications.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, (Tel. (01865) 270003), to whom applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent by 28 February 1996.

The University exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
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c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

IN-HOUSE/PRIVATE PRACTICE

EQUITY/COMPLIANCE *To £80,000*
Top international investment house seeks UK/US lawyer with top academic credentials and a minimum of 5-6 years' plus experience in european capital markets either from a leading law firm or a securities house. Top notch technical expertise in equity cash and derivatives markets both domestic and international as well as a familiarity with UK compliance issues essential. Top salary. Ref: T24589

EXCITING IN-HOUSE *To £35,000 plus*
1-3 years commercial/IP lawyer with excellent drafting and analytical skills as well as a robust personality. You will enjoy being involved in both the legal and the business side of this highly dynamic Central London environment which will involve cutting deals with broadcasters/sponsors etc. Very much a fun place to work and an excellent first move in-house. Ref: T14253

IN-HOUSE IP *To £30,000 plus*
Contentious IP expertise from the Bar or reputable London City firm with ideally a European language to work in this international publishing company located in Central London undertaking copyright disputes, contract negotiations throughout the world, working closely with the main board. Ideally between 1-3 years' and a strong commercial awareness. Exciting working environment. Ref: T26224

IN-HOUSE COMPUTER *Hertfordshire To £50,000 plus*
Potential Head of Legal Department with well known and international company. Ideally between 3 and 6 years' qualified but may look slightly more senior from a major City practice. Commercial/ IT expertise. Must be robust and confident and able to deal at all levels within this company. Ref: T26058

IN-HOUSE M&A *To £Excellent*
You must have at least one other European language with some US exposure and not less than 4 years' M&A and joint venture experience on a consistently international basis. Will look at European and US qualified lawyers. You will come in as a senior legal adviser taking on a broad range of transactions. Lots of travel. Must be lively with a good sense of humour. Excellent package. Ref: T25941

IP/IT *To £36,000*
Top five City practice now seeks a 1-3 years' pqe IT/IP solicitor to do a mix of contentious/non-contentious work including IP work in all its forms, computers and hi-tech matters and issues with technological or scientific content. You will have a first class academic background and be eager to assume a front-line, demanding role. Ref: T16039

CONSTRUCTION *To £38,000*
Leading City firm with burgeoning reputation in this area seeks 1-3 year qualified lawyer for a broad ranging role including High Court litigation and arbitration. Ideally from top construction practice and seeking greater responsibility and prospects. Civil engineering background is highly desirable. Ref: T15087

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY *To £34,000*
Junior lawyer needed urgently by Central London firm with excellent reputation in the sphere of insurance work to join specialist team servicing established client base. With up to two years experience, you will need good academic track record and a range of professional indemnity experience gained with a reputable practice. Ref: T25933

EMPLOYMENT *To £45,000*
With a strong and highly prestigious practice, and clients of national and international repute, served by a small team of highly professional and totally committed lawyers with a reputation for innovation and dynamism. This London practice now seeks an employment specialist with between 1 and 4 years' pqe to specialise in both contentious and non-contentious work. Strong personality essential. Good prospects. Ref: T21875

CORPORATE FINANCE *To £60,000*
Major City firm with international clientele seeks 3-5 years' pqe corporate finance lawyer to undertake a wide range of Blue and Yellow Book work, international company/commercial matters and Stock Exchange takeover work. Successful applicants will have had articles with a London firm, post-qualification City experience, be team players and have good inter-personal skills. Ref: T25518

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY *To £60,000*
City firm with outstanding commercial property reputation, reflected by first rate client base, seeks assistant solicitors at 1-6 years' pqe to undertake full range of leasehold and development work. Bright, commercially astute individuals can really thrive in this merit orientated environment. Ref: T15493

BANKING *To £90,000*
First rate City practice now seeks banking lawyers with 0-8 years' post qualification experience. This is an outstanding opportunity to join an established and prestigious banking practice with a premier client base. You will have first rate City experience, perhaps with a following at the higher level, be commercial and have the desire to succeed. Ref: T744

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This pre-eminent US practice with a strong presence in London is now seeking a 2-3 year US qualified corporate tax lawyer. Your academic pedigree is of the highest importance and you will have graduated from one of the top US law schools, at the top of your class. Ref: T26050

COMPANY COMMERCIAL *To £30,000*
Top Twenty practice with unparalleled reputation for the quality of its advice in numerous key areas now seeks additional lawyer with 1-2 years' pqe to advise on acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures. Experience of Blue and Yellow book work would be useful. Strong academic approach taken as read. Ref: T24519

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams, Seamus Hoar or June Mesrié (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 or 0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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Apply with cv and some details of following to: Box No 2448
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هكذا في الاصل

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LEADING IT COMPANY

Substantial Salary and Benefits

Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest telecommunications companies, dedicated to the marketing, support and servicing of its comprehensive range of information solutions, across worldwide markets.

LONDON

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COMMERCIAL LAWYER – 3-5 YEARS' PQE — Already with some in-house experience and with extensive exposure to commercial contracts.

SENIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER — With at least 3 years' commercial contracts experience, ideally with an IT bias.

JUNIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER — Having gained at least 1 year's experience of commercial contracts work.

FARNBOROUGH

SENIOR CONTRACTS MANAGER — In addition, our client also seeks a senior contracts manager for its systems and technology operation based in Farnborough.

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SENIOR FINANCE LAWYER

£EXCELLENT (+BENEFITS)

The Client

A highly prestigious UK institutional organisation, our Client's Legal Department is substantial, well structured and has a real commercial ethos. Grouped into a number of specialist teams, its functions are extremely broad, encompassing advice in relation to finance and corporate capital, insurance, regulation and litigation. Much of the work has an international dimension, notably in the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, Switzerland and Japan.

The Position

A senior lawyer is now sought to join a dedicated team, currently composed of five lawyers, responsible for the organisation's financing, capital and security arrangements. Working closely with the Treasury and Financial Services Departments, the team deals with the organisation's banking arrangements as well as the deposit, investment and transfer of substantial funds across the world. After an initial period of induction, it is intended that responsibility for the team and its development will be assumed by the succesful candidate.

The Person

You will be a qualified solicitor with a minimum of ten years' post qualification experience, gained either in-house or in private practice. A finance and banking background is essential, together with an understanding of the Financial Services Act regime. You should have a proven track record of academic and professional achievement, a high degree of personal credibility and demonstrable managerial and leadership skills.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Andrew Russell on 0171-377-0510 (0171-622 6213 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

ZMB

CITY SOLICITORS

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Having achieved pre-eminence in a number of areas, this c.70 partner firm seeks to build upon its renowned strengths, hence the need for a 0-2 yr PQE comm prop solicitor to handle a general caseload.

I.P. LITIGATION to £45,000
With a growing reputation for I.P. expertise a solicitor with strong patent lit. experience is sought by this c.70 partner firm. You will have 2-4 years PQE and ideally a science or engineering background.

BANK/FINANCE to £45,000
This major international firm has one of the busiest Banking/Finance departments in the City. So if you have 2-4 years PQE and good relevant experience our client can offer the highest quality work and a top salary.

PROF INDEMNITY to £38,000
The City office of this impressive national firm continues its spectacular growth. A highly motivated, personable solicitor, 1-3 years qualified, with strong academics and good relevant experience is sought for a large and varied caseload.

The requirement to specialise faces most solicitors in City firms at increasingly early stages in their careers. When should you specialise and in what area? Your ideas in this respect may well be different from those of your firm. We have a very broad overview of the legal market and are therefore well placed to advise on these matters; so for an impartial opinion why not speak to us.

*For advice or further information on these, and many other current positions, please contact **Jon Garrett** or **Ben Williams** on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 0181 874 8390), or write to us in complete confidence at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax: 0171 404 0469).*

EMPLOYMENT to £38,000
If you are an ambitious, commercially minded lawyer with 2-3 years PQE in all aspects of employment law, you cannot overlook the opening in the progressive employment team at this c.50 partner firm.

INSOLVENCY to £45,000
Tired of being 2nd best? Then grasp with both hands this rare opportunity to join a top flight insolvency group in a Top 5 firm. They require a high calibre 2-4 year qualified insolvency solicitor with clear ambition and partnership potential.

PROF INDEMNITY to £37,000
C.70 partner firm requires a committed lawyer with 1-3 years PQE in Prof Ind/Construction Lit to join their specialist construction team, acting on behalf of insurers, banks and employers/occupiers.

CORPORATE to £55,000
Providing its international clientele with effective commercial advice this c.50 partner firm seeks dynamic lawyers with 1-5 yrs PQE to handle challenging corporate transactional work.

CORPORATE TAX to £44,000
Exceptional prospects mark out the highly regarded Tax Department of this leading firm which seeks a top flight tax lawyer (2-4 years PQE) to support complex banking and corporate transactions.

EAGAN JANION

CHAMBERS

The First Offer

One of our candidates was not kept on by his firm at the end of articles simply because there was no opening for him. The senior partner was as helpful as he could be. Among the advice he gave he said, with some emphasis, "Whatever you do, don't take the first job that's offered."

This rang in the candidate's ears for weeks, causing some indecision when, sure enough, he was offered a job after his first interview. The new firm impressed him, and the job was exactly what he was looking for, but he naturally hesitated. If I'm that good, he may have thought, there will be better jobs around. In the end he accepted, and is pleased, in fact, that he did.

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Privy Council | Law Report February 6 1996 | Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Exercise of prerogative of mercy is not justiciable

Reckley v Minister of Public Safety and Immigration and Others (No 2)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hoffmann and Sir Michael Hardie Boys

[Judgment February 5]

The exercise of the prerogative of mercy in a death sentence case under the Constitution of the Bahamas was not justiciable.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that the decision in *de Freitas v Benny* ([1976] AC 239) remained good law, and refused to grant the petitioner, Thomas Reckley, leave to appeal from the refusal by the Court of Appeal of the Bahamas of a stay of execution until final determination of his constitutional motion which alleged that the carrying out of the sentence of death passed upon him would contravene his constitutional rights.

Article 92 of the Constitution provides: "(1) Where an offender has been sentenced to death . . . the minister shall cause a written report of the case from the trial judge of the Supreme Court, together with such other information derived from the record of the case or elsewhere as the minister may require, to be taken into consideration at a meeting of the advisory committee . . .

"(3) The minister shall not be obliged in any case to act in accordance with the advice of the advisory committee."

Mr Geoffrey Tattersall, QC and Mr Timothy Straker for the petitioner; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, Mr Michael Hamilton, Director of Legal Affairs, the Bahamas, Mr Bernard Turner, Deputy DLA, the Bahamas, and Mr Peter Knox for the respondents.

LORD GOFF said that the petitioner was convicted of murder in 1990 and sentenced to death. His appeal against conviction and sentence was dismissed by the Court of Appeal in 1991.

His petition for special leave to appeal to the Privy Council was dismissed in 1992. The Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy met to consider his case on May 18, 1995, and thereafter the minister decided to advise the Governor-General that the law should be allowed to take its course.

A warrant for the execution of the petitioner signed by the Governor-General directing that the execution should take place on May 30 was read to the petitioner on May 26.

Constitutional proceedings were commenced claiming that execution would be contrary to his constitutional rights on the grounds, inter alia, that he had not been afforded the right to see the judge's report and other material placed by the minister before the advisory committee, and to make representations to the committee with reference to that material before they rendered their advice to the minister.

On May 29 Mr Justice Osadebay refused a stay of execution until final determination of the constitutional motion. Acting Chief Justice Fountain, sitting as a single judge of the Court of Appeal dismissed the petitioner's appeal from that decision. The petitioner petitioned for leave to appeal against the refusal of a stay.

The substantial point was the advisory committee point. Their Lordships recognised that it was unusual for a point of that character to be considered upon an adjourned hearing of a petition for leave to appeal from a refusal of stay of an execution, but had taken that exceptional course in the present case because it involved a challenge to a previous decision of the Privy Council and so could not have been successfully advanced in the Bahamian courts.

Article 90 of the Bahamian Constitution conferred on the Governor-General a wide range of powers exercisable by him in accordance with the advice of a designated minister, including power to substitute a sentence of life imprisonment for a sentence of death.

Article 91 provided for the advisory committee comprising the designated minister, the Attorney-General, and between three and five other members appointed by the Governor-General.

Article 92 was concerned with the functions of the advisory committee. Article 92(1) was directly in point in cases such as the present.

In death sentence cases the question of the exercise of the prerogative of mercy would automatically be considered by the committee and, apart from the trial judge's report, there was no obligation on the minister to place any particular information before the committee.

The respondents submitted that the exercise of the prerogative of mercy in death sentence cases was a personal discretion vested in the minister to depart from the law, as a matter of grace.

Mr Tattersall's first submission on behalf of the petitioner was that the exercise of the prerogative of mercy was in the present case amenable to judicial review. His second was that, in any event, the principle of fairness required a man sentenced to death should be entitled to make representations to the advisory committee; and since effective representations could not be made by him unless he or his advisers were aware of the nature of material before the committee antagonistic to his case, the gist of that material had to be made known.

Mr Tattersall's submissions immediately faced the difficulty that they were contrary to the decision of the Privy Council in *de Freitas v Benny* ([1976] AC 239).

In that case, which arose under the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, the appellant claimed that he was entitled (i) to be shown the material which the designated minister placed before the advisory committee, and (ii) to be heard by the committee in reply at a hearing at which he was legally represented.

It was claimed that the functions of the committee were quasi-judicial in nature and accordingly that any failure to grant to the appellant the rights he claimed would contravene the rules of natural justice and infringe his right not be deprived of life except by due process of law. The submission was rejected by the Judicial Committee in a judgment delivered by Lord Diplock (see pp247-248). His observations were equally apposite to the Constitution of the Bahamas.

Articles 90-92 of the present Bahamian Constitution first appeared in the Constitution of 1963. The introduction of the advisory committee, and the statutory provisions governing the exercise of its functions in death sentence cases, reinforced Lord Diplock's analysis in *de Freitas v Benny*.

First, every death sentence case had to be considered by the advisory committee. There was no question of such consideration depending on any initiative from the condemned man or his advisers.

Second, despite the obvious intention that the advisory committee should be a group of distinguished citizens, and the fact that the minister was bound to consult them in death sentence cases, he was not bound to accept their advice. That strongly indicated an intention to preserve the status of the minister's discretion as a purely personal discretion, while ensuring that he received the benefit of advice from a reputable and impartial source.

It might be inferred that the reason why provision was made in the Constitution for an advisory committee was to provide a constitutional safeguard in circumstances where the minister's discretionary power was of such a nature that it was not subject to judicial review.

Third, the material which had to be taken into consideration at the meeting of the advisory committee was, apart from the trial judge's report, "such other information derived from the record of the case or elsewhere as the minister may require". That was inconsistent with the condemned man having a right to make representations to the advisory committee.

The point could be placed in a broader context. A man accused of a capital offence in the Bahamas had his legal rights. He was entitled to the benefit of a trial, with all the rights which that entailed. After conviction and sentence, he had a right to appeal to the Court of Appeal and, if his appeal was unsuccessful, to petition for leave to appeal to the Privy Council.

After his rights of appeal were exhausted, he might still be able to invoke his fundamental rights under the Constitution. A man was still entitled to his fundamental rights, and in particular to his right to the protection of the law, even after he had been sentenced to death.

If it was proposed to execute him contrary to the law, for example because there had been a failure to consult the advisory committee as required by the Constitution, he could apply to the Supreme Court for redress under article 28.

The actual exercise by the designated minister of his discretion in death sentence cases was different. It was concerned with a regime, automatically applicable, under which the designated minister, having consulted with the advisory committee, decided, in the exercise of his own personal discretion, whether to advise the Governor-General that the law should or should not take its course.

Of its very nature the minister's discretion, if exercised in favour of the condemned man, would involve a departure from the law. Such a decision was taken as an act of mercy or of grace.

As Lord Diplock had said in *de Freitas v Benny* (at p247): "Mercy is not the subject of legal rights. It begins where legal rights end." And the act of the advisory committee in advising the minister was of the same character as the act of the minister in advising the Governor-General.

Mr Tattersall had invoked a number of authorities in support of his argument, but they did not assist him. His Lordship referred to *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* ([1985] AC 374), *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bentley* ([1994] QB 349), *Burt v Governor-General* ([1992] 3 NZLR 672) and *Lauriano v Attorney-General of Belize* (unreported, September 20, 1995).

He continued that the petitioner faced similar difficulties in respect of the alternative submission that the principle of fairness required that he should be entitled to make representations to the advisory committee and, for that purpose, to see, or to be provided with the gist of, the material which had been placed before the committee.

Reliance was placed on *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* ([1994] 1 AC 531), but that concerned a different subject matter. Lord Mustill, with whose speech the remainder of the Appellate Committee agreed, was careful to distinguish that case from a case in which the prisoner was essentially in mercy, where there was no ground to ascribe to him the rights which fairness might otherwise demand.

That was precisely the present case. It was clear from the constitutional provisions under which the advisory committee was established and its functions regulated that the condemned man had no right to make representations to the committee in a death sentence case; and so there was no basis on which he was entitled to be supplied with the gist of other material before the committee.

That was entirely consistent with a regime under which a purely personal discretion was vested in the minister.

The condemned man was at liberty to make such representations, in which event the minister could, and no doubt would in practice, cause such representations to be placed before the advisory committee, although the condemned man had no right that he should do so.

Their Lordships wished to stress the nature of the constitutional safeguard which the introduction of the advisory committee had created. On the committee, the designated minister and the Attorney-General would be joined by a group of people nominated by the Governor-General.

Those would be men and women of distinction, whose presence, and contribution, at the heart of the process would ensure that the condemned man's case was given, and was seen by citizens to be given, full and fair consideration. Such people would expect to be provided with all relevant material, including any material supplied by or on behalf of the condemned man; and in the most unlikely event that the responsible civil servants did not place such material before them, they were capable of making the necessary inquiries.

Those who drew the Constitution were well aware of the personal nature of the discretion to be exercised by the minister and the consequent absence of any supervisory role by the courts, but also considered that, by introducing an advisory committee with the constitution and functions specified in the Constitution, they were providing a safeguard both appropriate and adequate for the situation.

The decision in *de Freitas v Benny* remained good law and, in a case arising under the Constitution of the Bahamas, was determinative of the advisory committee point. There was no arguable point to justify the grant of leave to appeal from the decision of Acting Chief Justice Fountain refusing a stay of execution, and leave to appeal was therefore refused.

Their Lordships' opinion on the advisory committee point had been expressed solely with reference to death sentence cases, for which special provision was made in article 92(1). Their Lordships recommended that the petition should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Charles Russell.

Order was within judge's power

Miah v Sewell and Another

An order in the county court striking out a plaintiff's claim because of his manifest default in complying with the terms of an "unless" order by failing to file and serve evidence within the prescribed time was a very strong order to make but did not fall outside the ambit of the discretion vested in the judge.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe) so held on January 23 when dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Jetu Miah, from Judge Chalkley's order in Basingstoke County Court on October 31, 1994, striking out his claim against James Sewell and Shamim Hussein for damages for injuries.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that the plaintiff accepted there had been mismanagement of his case but argued that striking out was too blunt an instrument with which to punish him for his failure. But the judge, having made efforts to bring the case back on to the rails, had understandably been vexed by the plaintiff's disregard for his orders.

It was a strong order to make, especially in a case where the plaintiff would have been bound to succeed against one or other of the defendants. But it had been incumbent on the plaintiff in such circumstances to advance such excuse or explanation to the judge by evidence served in advance of the hearing.

There had been no such evidence to explain the plaintiff's manifest default. The judge had not exceeded the discretion vested in him by making the order.

Penal powers are relevant to mode of trial

Regina v Flax Bourton Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment January 29]

In determining whether an either way offence should be tried summarily or on indictment, section 19(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 required justices to apply their minds, inter alia, to the question whether or not their powers of punishment would be adequate if they dealt with the case summarily.

Where justices were in doubt as to the appropriate level of sentence for a particular class of case, they should seek their clerk's assistance.

Having decided to try a case summarily, section 38 of the 1980 Act, as amended by section 25 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, gave justices an unfettered discretion to commit a defendant to the crown court for sentence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, granting an application by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to quash a decision of Flax Bourton Justices, sitting at Long Ashton, on August 25, 1995 not to commit the defendant, Simon Roger Allan, to the crown court for trial on charges under section 72(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1990, of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of value-added tax.

Mr David Barnard for the commissioners; the justices and the defendant did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the justices were aware of section 19(1) and (3) of the 1980 Act and the guidance contained in *Practice Note (Mode of Trial: Guidelines)* ([1990] 1 WLR 1439) as revised in *Mode of Trial Guidelines* (HMSO) issued by the Secretariat of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council on February 1, 1995, which provided, inter alia:

"(f) In general, except where otherwise stated, either way offences should be tried summarily unless the court considers that the particular case has one or more of the features set out in the following pages and that its sentencing powers are insufficient.

"(g) The court should also consider its power to commit an offender for sentence under section 38 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, as amended . . . if information emerges during the course of the hearing which leads them to conclude that the offence is so serious, or the offender such a risk to the public, that their powers to sentence him are inadequate. This amendment means that committal for sentence is no longer determined by reference to the character and antecedents of the defendant."

Their attention was also drawn to *R v Dover Justices, Ex parte Pamment* ([1994] 15 Cr App R (S) 778) and *R v North Sefton Magistrates Court, Ex parte Marsh* ([1995] 159 JP 9), which showed that section 38 of the 1980 Act, as amended, gave justices an unfettered discretion to commit for sentence after a decision as to mode of trial had been made.

The justices concluded that the case was not one of those specified in the guidelines as suitable for trial on indictment and they accepted jurisdiction.

The prosecution submitted that the justices failed to take into account whether their powers of punishment were sufficient as required by section 19(3).

There was nothing in the cases which relieved a magistrates court of that statutory obligation. All that the recent cases said was that if, having decided upon summary trial, justices later came to the conclusion that their powers were inadequate, they could change their minds and commit for sentence. But justices still had to make up their minds in the first place. The words of the statute prevailed.

His Lordship would not have been prepared to grant relief had the justices applied their minds to section 19(3). If justices were in doubt as to what the level of sentence should be, they should have assistance from their clerk.

Having regard to decisions in the particular class of case, it was difficult to envisage the justices concluding that their powers would have been adequate had they formed a view under section 19(3).

Mr Justice Forbes agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Correction

In *Penrose v Official Receiver (The Times* December 19, 1995) the defendant should have been the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and it was wrongly stated that the Official Receiver had opposed the application.

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England's quest for flexibility must be based on traditional strengths

Richards needed to restore old order

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

WILL CARLING, who has been far more positive about England's erratic victory over Wales in the rugby union five nations' championship than many of the team's critics, called yesterday for the earliest possible selection of the XV to meet Scotland next month. Whether the captain's wish will be granted, however, lies in the hands of Jack Rowell, the manager.

Rowell has much to ponder in a season when, after four matches, England have shown little sign of coherent rugby. In particular, he must consider whether to modify his approach so that his players can ensure that fundamental elements of their game, the set pieces, are in working order.

"Geoff Cooke was a meticulous planner, a great man for detail," Carling said of the manager who preceded Rowell. "Jack's view is that you need players who can play a flexible game. We feel we need to develop a broader canvas." Rowell claims to articulate the squad view rather than his own and Carling denies any difference of opinion between him and the manager.

However, Rowell's hope that the same squad would serve throughout the championship must come under review. The lineout is not functioning, which, given the proven abilities at lock of Martin Johnson and Martin Bayfield, suggests Mark Regan's place at hooker is under threat. The short-term choice as a replacement is Graham Dawe, although his throwing-in is not the best part of his game, and the long-term is represented by Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, or Phil Greening, of Gloucester.

To select either against Scotland on March 2 would be a gamble. There must also be an acknowledgement that too many wise old heads have departed. Neither Dean Richards nor Andy Robinson enjoy making up the numbers at squad weekends and both regard themselves as capable of international rugby.

Of the two, Richards would provide a core of common sense, which seems patently lacking in the England pack. His return, probably at the expense of Tim Rodber, would help to restore traditional strengths at scrum and lineout.

Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) technical administrator, has acknowledged that some of England's rugby in the 21-15 win last Saturday was sterile. "People want to be entertained and just winning isn't going to be acceptable any more," he said. "People felt short-changed."

England have pleaded a change of personnel in mitigation for their uninspired form, but it does not appear to have upset Scotland, who have a clutch of inexperienced players in key positions yet now lead the table. They will name their team to play Wales on February 17 tomorrow, while the French brace themselves today for four or five changes against Ireland. Experienced players such as Olivier Merle and Thierry Lacroix face the guillotine.

Carling's knee injury is likely to keep him out of the delayed Pilkington Cup tie between Harlequins and Newcastle at Kingston Park on Saturday, but the RFU has confirmed that, whatever the International Rugby Football Board stipulation about 180-day transfer periods, Nick Popplewell, the Ireland prop, may take his place in the Newcastle front row.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, wants a conference of rugby-playing countries in Europe, so that a formal agreement can be reached, over transfers which does not conflict with European Community law. "You can have an open gangway between EC countries providing the unions affected agree to the transfer," Hallett said after consultation with lawyers.

"Only when one union says no to a transfer will we get a test case and I believe that should be handled by the governing body, rather than an individual club. All our advice is that, if clubs have agreed terms, a refusal would not be sustainable."

Bruce seals new contract to stay at United

By Russell Kempson and David Maddock

STEVE BRUCE, 35, the Manchester United captain, yesterday agreed a new contract with the club that will run for a further 18 months and earn him up to £1.5 million.

His basic salary over the period will be worth £600,000, but he also stands to gain another £750,000 if he can fill Old Trafford, with its new capacity of 55,000, for a testimonial match planned for next season. Bonuses and a new signing-on fee will take the figure close to the £1.5 million.

Bruce said: "I must admit I thought seriously about hanging up my boots and going into management. But I had some good advice from Kevin Keegan [the Newcastle United manager], who told me that I would be mad to do that when I could still play.

"Manchester United have been very fair to me, and I believe that I can perform at this level for a little while yet. I know that I have been written off for the last two years, but I'm still playing, and I believe I'm still playing quite well."

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman and chief executive, has also come to an agreement with Alex Ferguson, his manager, avoiding a potentially divisive row.

Ray Lewington, the Crystal Palace joint first-team coach, may well have signed his own death warrant at the club. Lewington openly criticised Ron Noades, his chairman, after the 0-0 draw against Charlton Athletic on Sunday. Lewington insisted that Noades should not interfere with team selection policy at Selhurst Park.

It is a predicament that Alan Smith, the former Palace manager, is familiar with, having publicly fallen out with Noades last season and then left — eventually to emerge at Wycombe Wanderers — by grudging mutual consent.

Smith yesterday sympathised with Lewington on a situation that may end in a change of management at the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club.

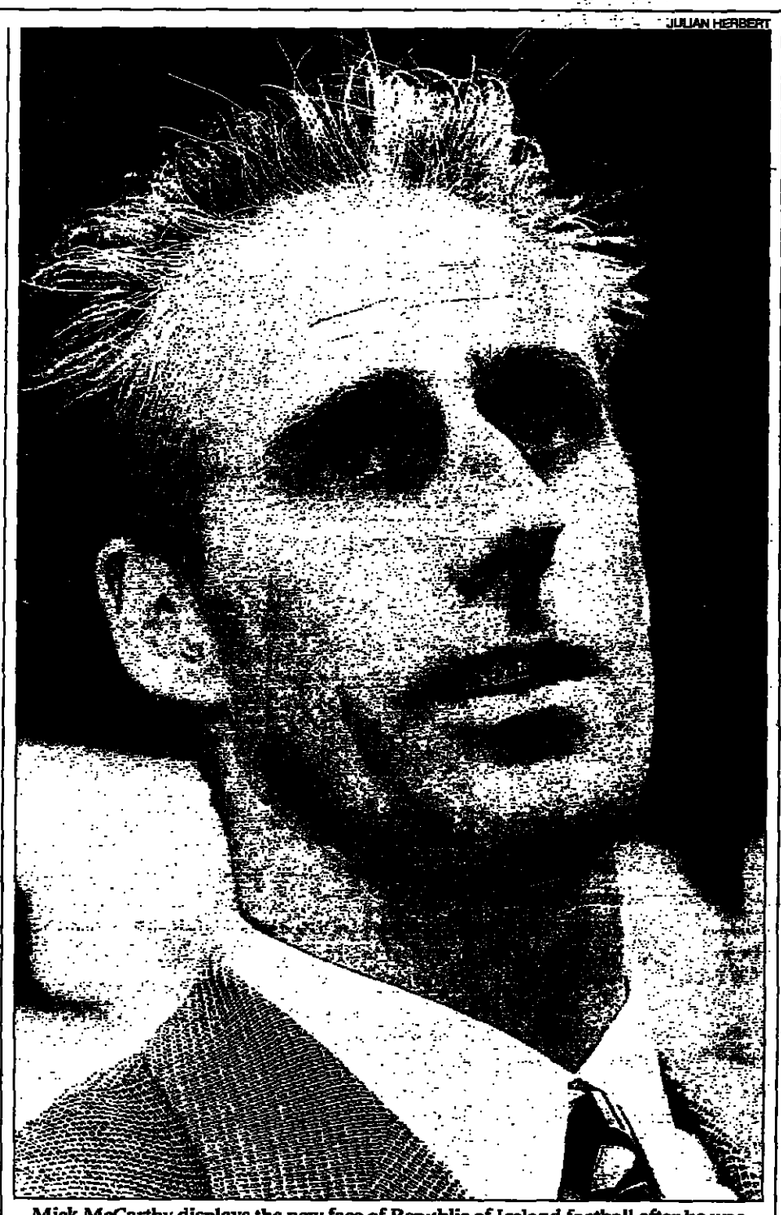
"Ray is a nice fellow, far too nice to work for that bloke," Smith said. "He [Noades] wants Dave Bassett in, that's the bottom line of the whole thing."

Bassett spent three days as manager of Palace in 1984 before changing his mind and returning to Wimbledon. He left Sheffield United by mutual consent in December and has yet to find new employment. Lewington was appointed first-team coach at Palace, with Peter Nicholas, 18 months ago. Coppell was brought back to the club, as technical director, in June.

"I want my team to pass and I want them to play," Lewington said two days ago. "I don't want them to start lumping the ball forward. I'm not going to change."

Port Vale's FA Cup fourth-round replay with Everton, of the FA Carling Premiership, is already in danger of becoming a victim of the cold weather that has captured northern England in its icy grip. Vale Park has no ground covers and the pitch is already frozen.

JULIAN HERBERT



Mick McCarthy displays the new face of Republic of Ireland football after he was unveiled as their manager at Lansdowne Road yesterday. Report, page 48

Storm-force effort sees Manchester stay top

By Norman De Mesquita

A CROWD of 12,386, a record for British ice hockey, saw Manchester Storm beat Bracknell Bees 4-2 to maintain their hold on the leadership of the British League first division.

Storm led 2-1 at the end of the first period but two second-period goals from Hilton Ruggles gave them a three-goal cushion. The Bees could score only once in the final period. With Blackburn Hawkes beating Telford Tigers 9-7, the Bees lost some ground and, although they are still in third place, they are seven points behind Blackburn and 15 points away from top place.

In the premier division, Cardiff Devils drew within one point of Sheffield Steelers after their 8-4 win over Newcastle Warriors in which Ian Cooper, Randy Smith, Doug Small and Steve Moria each scored twice.

Slough Jets gained a rare win, beating Basingstoke Bison 7-5 with Dan Gratton and Rob Coutts each scoring three goals.

The Bison slipped further behind the leading pack and, if their injured players do not return soon, they may even find themselves struggling to qualify for the championship play-offs. Durham Wasps remain in fourth place and completed a miserable weekend for Fife Flyers, beating them 9-6, with Kip Noble and Kim Issel leading the way by scoring three goals apiece.

Milton Keynes Kings, who have recently shown improved form, lost their way against Humberside Hawks and were defeated 3-1 at home.

English Open kicks off new world tour

THE English Open table tennis tournament will be the opening competition in an eight-event professional tour that will culminate in a final in China (Richard Eaton writes). The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) tour will carry total prize-money of $250,000 (£165,000) with the English Open, to be staged at Kettering Arena from April 3 to 8, worth $30,000.

The English Table Tennis Association is still looking for a suitable sponsorship deal. The ITTF is talking to the International Management Group about promotion and sponsorship of the tour, and the likelihood is that, while the final will be sponsored, an umbrella sponsorship may have to wait until the 1997 tour. With the world's best players likely to be attracted to Kettering, the 1996 English Open could be the highest-quality competition held in this country since the 1977 world championships in Birmingham.

Playing numbers game

RUGBY LEAGUE: The Super League is set to abandon the traditional one to 13 numbering on shirts by following the example of the FA Carling Premiership in football in adopting squad numbers and names on players' backs. The proposal by chief executives of the 12 clubs goes before the Rugby League Council tomorrow. Chorley, of the second division, have appointed Kevin Tamati, the former Salford coach and New Zealand prop forward, as successor to Bob Eccles. London Broncos have made Bev Risman, a former dual international, director of development.

Henman's promotion



TENNIS: Tim Henman, right, who was ranked No 276 in the world eight months ago, has climbed to a career-best No 79 after reaching the semi-finals of the ATP Shanghai Open last week. Henman, 21, from Oxford, is now only 40 places behind Canadian-born Greg Rusedski. Britain has seven men in the top 200 in the world, yet of the women only Clare Wood is in the top 200 at No 169.

Italian beats elements

SKIING: Werner Perathoner celebrated his first World Cup victory of the season in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. The Italian won a demanding super-giant slalom race that was postponed from Sunday because of fog and then stopped repeatedly so that repairs could be made to the course. Perathoner, whose only other World Cup victory came in Kvitfjell, Norway, last season, completed the 1.36km course in 1min 19.62sec. Luc Alphand, of France, was second in 1:19.83. Patrick Wirth, of Austria, finished third.

Wenton challenge

BOXING: Richie Wenton, the British super-bantamweight champion, has a chance to win a Lonsdale Belt outright when he defends his title against Wilson Docherty, of Scotland, at the Basildon Festival Hall tonight. The champion can expect a spirited challenge from the Scot, particularly after the tremendous effort of his brother, Drew, in a world title bout against Daniel Jimenez, of Puerto Rico, in Mansfield recently. Wilson is not quite in Drew's class, but he has the stamina and determination to test Wenton.

Barker goes through

RACKETS: Guy Barker justified his seventh seeding with a narrow defeat of the powerful Tim Cockroft in four exciting games to reach the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British Open championship at Queen's Club. Cockroft, who in April partners Willie Boone in the world doubles eliminator, started strongly, but Barker raised his game to secure victory. He now meets Boone, the second seed and former world champion, who beat the Queen's Club professional, David Johnson.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	60	160	good	crusty	good	sun	-5	1/2
(Great skiing on firm-packed pistes)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	40	80	good	varied	good	sun	-12	5/2
(Fresh powder on firm base, excellent skiing)								
Saalbach	15	35	poor	none	art	cloud	-5	27/1
(Open, complete runs hardicy, others need care to ski)								
St Anton	20	120	fair	varied	icy	fine	-6	5/2
(Dusting of fresh snow on very varied base)								
Schladming	50	70	good	powder	fair	fair	0	5/2
(Well-groomed pistes and great skiing everywhere)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	35	165	good	varied	good	snow	-8	5/2
(Very good skiing in falling snow still some rocks)								
Avoriaz	80	120	good	powder	good	snow	-5	5/2
(Fresh snow on firm base powder available)								
La Plagne	75	160	good	powder	good	snow	-9	5/2
(Excellent powder skiing and pistes greatly improved)								
Tignes	90	145	good	powder	good	fair	-9	5/2
(Superb powder skiing fresh snow at all altitudes)								
Val d'Isère	85	150	good	powder	good	sun	-2	5/2
(Wonderful powder skiing sunny skies)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	300	good	powder	good	sun	-2	2/2
(Plenty of powder excellent skiing and sunny skies)								
SWITZERLAND								
Murren	15	110	good	moguls	poor	snow	-5	5/2
(Snowing in village but sun shining above 2,300m)								
St Moritz	40	95	good	varied	fair	sun	-5	2/2
(Good snow coverage in all areas: diavolleza superb)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain, L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday February 10
unless stated
Coupon No fixture, forecast

COCA-COLA CUP
SEMI-FINAL, FIRST LEG
Not on coupons: Birmingham v Leeds (Sunday)

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Man Utd v Blackburn 1
2 Sheff W v Wimbledon 2
Not on coupons: Bolton v Aston Villa; Coventry v Chelsea; Everton v Manchester City; Middlesbrough v Newcastle; Nottingham Forest v Arsenal; Queens Park Rangers v Liverpool (Sunday); Tottenham v West Ham (Monday)

FIRST DIVISION
3 Birmingham v Hudd'fd X
4 C Palace v Sheff Utd 1
5 Derby v Wolves 1
6 Luton v Grimsby 1
7 Millwall v Reading 1
8 Oldham v Norwich 2
9 Portsmouth v Leicester 2
10 Stoke v Ipswich 1
11 Sunderland v P Vale 1
12 Tranmere v Barnsley X
13 Watford v Charlton 2
14 WBA v Southend X

SECOND DIVISION
15 Bradford v Stockport 1
16 Bristol C v Bourn'm'th 2
17 Burnley v Crewe X
18 Carlisle v Brentford X
19 Hull v Bristol R 2
20 Oxford v Brighton X
21 Peterboro v Shr'sbury X
22 Swansea v Swindon X
23 Walsall v Notts Co 1
24 Wrexham v Chest'field 2
25 Wycombe v Blackpool 1
26 York v Rotherham 2

THIRD DIVISION
27 Chester v Cambridge 1
28 Colchester v Wigan 1
29 Doncaster v Bury 1
30 Exeter v Mansfield 1
31 Fulham v Hartlepool 2
32 Gillingham v Torquay 1
33 Hereford v Lincoln 1
34 Leyton O v Cardiff 2
35 North'pton v Dar'gton 1
36 Preston v Barnet 1
37 Rochdale v Scarboro 1
38 Scunthorpe v Plym'th X

SCOTTISH PREMIER
39 Falkirk v Celtic 2
40 Hearts v Aberdeen 1
41 Partick v Kilmarnock 1
42 Rach v Hibernian 2
43 Rangers v Motherwell 1

SCOTTISH FIRST
44 Airdrie v Dunf'mline X
45 Clydebank v St Mirren 2
46 Dumbarton v Hamilton 2
47 Dundee U v G Morton X
48 S J'st'ne v Dundee X

SCOTTISH SECOND
49 Berwick v Stenh'muir 1
50 Forfar v Q of South 1
51 Montrose v Clyde 2
52 Stirling v Ayr 1
53 Stranraer v East Fife 2

SCOTTISH THIRD
54 Arbroath v Caledonian 1
55 Cowdenb'th v Brechin X
56 Livingston v Alloa 1
57 Queens Pk v E Stirling 1
58 Ross v Albion 1
*Pools panel to adjudicate

DRAWS (home teams): Tranmere, West Brom, Burnley, Carlisle, Oxford, Peterborough, Swansea, Scunthorpe, Airdrie, Dundee United, St Johnstone, Cowdenbeath.
BEST DRAWS: West Brom, Carlisle, Swansea, Scunthorpe, Cowdenbeath.
AWAYS: Wimbledon, Charlton, Bristol Rovers, Rotherham, Cardiff.
HOMES: Crystal Palace, Luton, Sunderland, Bradford, Wycombe, Chester, Doncaster, Northampton, Preston, Rochdale, Hearts, Forfar.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Luton, Sunderland, Wycombe, Preston, Rochdale. Aways: Wimbledon, Charlton, Cardiff. Draws: West Brom, Carlisle, Swansea.

☐ Vince Wright

Vince Wright gave 11 out of 12 homes last Saturday

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

HONOLULU: Pro Bowl: NFC 20 AFC Stars 13

ATHLETICS

STUTTGART: Indoor meeting: Winners: Men: 60 metres: D Ezinna (Nigeria) 6.56; 200m: J Regis (GB) 20.77; 400m: D Hall (USA) 45.69; 1,500m: M Kiptanui (Ken) 3.36.88; 3,000m: H Gebrselasse (Eth) 7:30.72 (world record); 60m hurdles: L Li Tong (China) 7.55; J T Barrett (GB) 7.57; High jump: T C Rhoden (Ger) 2.26m; 2. S Smith (GB) 2.24; Pole vault: M Stolle (Ger) 5.70. Women: 60m: M Paschke (Ger) 7.10; 400m: G Breuer (Ger) 51.14; 1,000m: M Mutola (Moz) 2.36.91; 1,500m: S Kuehnemund (Ger) 4.12.93; 60m hurdles: B Bukovec (Slovenia) 7.96; Triple jump: I S Kasparova (Kz) 14.26; Long jump: H Drechsler (Ger) 6.96.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 90 New York 83, Orlando 122 San Antonio 109 (OT), Phoenix 123 Washington 115 (OT), Atlanta 106 Charlotte 104; Denver 105 Chicago 99; LA Lakers 110 Utah 103, Golden State 96 New Jersey 92.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Doncaster 87 Leopards 104; Chester 79 Leicester 77; London Towers 86 Hemel 57; Newcastle 84 Derby 90; Sheffield 71 Manchester 68.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Brixton 65 Solent 55; Bury 92 Stockton 79; Coventry 89 Nottingham 65; Mid-Sussex 74 Ware 82; Plymouth 76 Cardiff 82. Women: First division: Ipswich 61 Nottingham 45; London 71 Spelthorne 61.

BOWLS

COUNTY ANTRIM: Woodsides Masters Pairs: D and B Thompson (Co Antrim) bt R Marshall and A Cocks (Scot) 7-4, 7-1, 7-5.

NOTTINGHAM: EIBA under-25 singles championship: Quarter-finals: M Royal (Mid Suffolk) bt J Parkinson (Blackpool Borough) 21-4, N Cammack (Boston) bt P Sampson (Cumbria) 21-19, D Martin (Herts) bt S Skelton (Scunthorpe) 21-14; P Newman (Hertfordshire) bt M Ayre (Angel) 21-11. Semi-finals: Royal 21, Cammack 18; Martin 21, Newman 16. Final: Royal bt Martin 21-9.

ATHERLEY TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Cumbria 119, Lincolnshire 115, Norfolk 119, Northamptonshire 90, Surrey 141, Oxfordshire 114, Devon 115, Berkshire 105.

BOXING

OSAKA: World Boxing Council flyweight championship: Yuri Arbachakov (Russ, holder) bt Raul Juarez (Mex) pts.

CRICKET

RED STRIPE CUP (third day of four): Port-of-Spain: Guyana 173 and 152 (N de Groot 78, E Antoine 5-47), Trinidad and Tobago 238 and 88-2. Trinidad and Tobago won by eight wickets. Bridgetown: Windward Islands 233 and 318 (U Pope 74, J Murray 70); Barbados 339 and 78-0. Montego Bay: Jamaica 424-7 dec, Leeward Islands 227 and 127-6.

BOMBAY: One-day international: Holland 216-6 (P Cantrell 71, S Lubbers 57, T Onyango 3-50), Kenya 213-9 (M Odumbe 60, H Modi 39, F Aponso 2-29).

FOOTBALL

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Napoli 2 Atalanta 0.
SPANISH LEAGUE: Espanol 0 Real Sociedad 0, Real Madrid 4 Real Betis 2; Athletic Bilbao 6 Oviedo 1, Sevilla 0 Racing Santander 1, Merida 3 Compostela 2, Real Valladolid 1 Salamanca 0; Deportiva La Coruna 1 Tenerife 1, Celta Vigo 2 Albacete 2, Rayo Vallecano 1 Barcelona 1.
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Benfica 1 Estrela Amadora 0, Maritimo 1 Tirsense 0; Farense 1 Belenenses 2.
BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Rio State Cup: Botafogo 2 Fluminense 0, Vasco da Gama 1 Bangu 1, Flamengo 1 Madureira 1, Olaria 2 America 2; Sao Paulo League: Palmeiras 1 Rio Claro 0, America 2 Ponte Preta 0, Sao Joao 2 Guarani 0, Juventus 1 XV de Jau 0, Portuguesa 3 Bandeirante 1, Novorizontino 2 Araraquara 2, Fernandina 0.
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Postponed: Liverpool FC Ladies v Doncaster Belles; Vic's Aztecs v Preston Town. Rangers Northern division: Wolverhampton Hunt's Bromco 1. Postponed: Langford v North County. Cup: Fourth round: Tranmere Rovers 5 Croydon 1. Semi-final: Arsenal 1 Wembley 4.
UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fifth-round replay: Postponed: Everton v Huddersfield Town.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Qatar 2 Romania 3 (at Doha).
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Sixth-round draw: Bridg Town v Colwyn Bay; Alvechurch Town or Wanneysfield v Rayners Town or Torcorn; Ash; Bedser Town or Chatterice v Peasedown and Tetbury Town v Canney Island.
☐ Ties to be played February 24.

GOLF

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Caribbean Classic: Final scores (US unless stated): 203: B Murphy 69, 67, 67, 207; H Irwin 65, 71, 71, 208; R Allon 68, 67, 73, 209; R Floyd 69, 68, 72; M Hill 72, 66, 71, 212; G Marsh (Aus) 71, 72, 69, J Bland 72, 69, 71, R Charles (NZ) 68, 71, 73, J Jacobs 72, 67, 73, J Dent 70, 70, 73, 213; S Hoppay (SA) 71, 66, 76; J Dent 70, 70, 73, J Schroeder 71, 67, 75, 214; L Trevino 73, 67, 74, 215; G Player (SA) 73, 71, 71, B Devlin 73, 69, 73, J Powell 72, 67, 76, 216; B Baird 72, 71, 73, R McBee 70, 71, 75. Other score: 222: A Jackin (GB) 70, 74, 78.

HOCKEY

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: Fifth round: Beeston 2, Guildford 5; Firebrands 1, Teddington 4; Havant 4, Edgbaston 0; Old Loughtonians 3, Trojans 1; Richmond 0, Reading 1.
QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Havant v East Grinstead; Guildford v Reading; Old Loughtonians v Southgate; Teddington v Canterbury. Ties to be played March 16.
CRYSTAL PALACE: AEWHA indoor championships: Under-16: Semi-finals: Gordano 6 Buckhaven 0; The Chase Sch 0 Henry Court 1. Final: Gordano 4 Henry Court 2. Under-19: Semi-finals: Portishead 5 O Loughtonians 4; Dame Alice Harper 6, Bromsgrove 4. Final: Portishead 6 Dame Alice Harper 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 5, Buffalo 2, Vancouver 4 Winnipeg 2; NY Islanders 5 Dallas 3; Chicago 4 Anaheim 1.
BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff 9 Newcastle 4; Durham 9 Fife 6; Milton Keynes 1 Humberside 3; Slough 12, Basingstoke 5. First division: Billingham 5 Chelmsford 5; Blackburn 9 Telford 7; Manchester 4 Bracknell; Murrayfield 3 Guildford 9; Paisley 5 Swindon 2; Peterborough 3 Dumfries 11; Solihull 5 Medway 6.

MOTOR RACING

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida: Rolex 24-hours race: 1, W Taylor, Sc Sharp, and J Pace (US) (Oldsmobile) R and S MK-III) 697 laps, 103.324mph; 2, G Moretti (It), M Papis (It), B Wollek (Fr) and D Theys (Bel) (Ferrari 333SP) same lap at 1min 5.518sec; 3, J Downing, B Hamlet, T McAdam and B Waddell (US) (Mazda Kudzu DLM) 46 laps behind.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: First round: Crossgates 19, Waterhead 23. Second round: Ashworth 54, Skip Inn 0; Askam 18, Dalton 18; Batley Victoria 12, Langworthy 24; Batley Boys 8, Stanley Rangers 14; Bevedley 24, Wigan St Cuthberts 16; Brotherton 19, Stanningley 24; Chequerfield 4, Upton and Frickley 30; Dewsbury Celtic 22, Talbot 16; Dewsbury Moor 16, Blackbrook 18; Dodworth 2, Halton Simms Cross 20; East Leeds 32, Ossett Trinity 6; Eastmoor Select 2, Siddal 16; Farnworth R O B 16, Featherstone M W 20; Featherstone Amateurs 16, B K K 20; Fryston 34, McMorgan 8; Heworth 24, Wigan St Judes 42; Hull Dockers 32, Westfield Hotel 12; Kippax 4, Mayfield 44; Kirkholt W M C 8, Wainey Central 26, Leigh East 0, Woolston 32; Liversedge 14, Dewsbury North 18; Lock Lane 34, Palington Recs 6; Mysons 34, Oldham St Annes 30; Norland 19, Embassey 20; Normanton 30, Thornhill Rangers 17; Oulton 10, Stanlough 34; Redcliffe 20, Brighouse Rangers 8; Shiriston Rovers 19, Clayton 28; Walnut Warriors 44, Royston 0; West Hull 14, Wigton 1; Whitemoor Warriors 14, New Earswick A B 17, York Acorn 10; Ellenborough Rangers 15, Wickes St. Maries 44, London Colonials 4.
POSTPONED: Aspatria v Kells; Blackpool Stanley v Rylands; Broughton Red Rose v Barrow Island; Crofton v Leeds Social; Crosfields v Worsh Village; Eastmoor v Dudley Hill; Eccles v Knottingley Rock; Fairley v Redhill; Folly Lane v Shaw Cross; Frizington v Distington; Glasson Rangers v Millom; Haydock v Westfield Wellans; Hensingham v Rose Bridge; Leigh Miners v Saddleworth; Littleborough v Wigan St Patricks; Lowca v Queensbury; Millom v Park Amateurs; Prestwich v Brassmoulders; Queens v Scorts; Roose v Thornhill; Seaton v Orrell St James; Illingworth v Wigan St Judes A; St Nicholas Arms v Ovenden; Tameside Borough v Keighley Albion; Weaverham v Bulwell; West Bowling v Widnes St Bedes; Westgate Redoubt v Moorends; Underbank Rangers v Ideal A B I.

RUGBY UNION

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: - Rovigo 17, Milan 33; Piacenza 6 Treviso 11; Calvisano 34 Padova 10; Roma 23 San Dona 27; L'Aquila 21 Mirano 3; Catania 28 Livorno 36.

SKIING

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: World Cup: Men: Super-G: 1, W Perathoner (It) 1min 19.62sec; 2, L Alphand (Fr) 1:19.83; 3, P Wirth (Austria) 1:20.05; equal 4, S Krauss (Ger) and J Lesknen (Fin) 1:20.30; 8, K Ghedina (It) 1:20.57. World Cup standings: Overall: 1, L Kjus (Nor) 974pts; 2, G Mader (Austria) 803; 3, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 738; equal 4, Alphand and H Knaus (Austria) 688.5; 6, A Tombe (It) 616. Super-G: 1, Knaus 207; 2, A Steindal (Nor) 200; 3, Kjus, 180; equal 4, R Nyberg (Swe) and R Krcil (Austria) 161; 6, Alphand, 158.

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE: Benson and Hedges Masters: First round: J Parrott (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 6-5, S Davis (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-0; A Hicks (Eng) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-2.

SWIMMING

PARIS: World Cup short-course meeting: Selected winners: Men: Freestyle: 50m: A Popov (Russ) 22.01sec, 100m: Popov 47.83, 200m: D Lasader (NZ) 1:45.61, 400m: Lasder, 3:42.41. Breaststroke: 50m: G Schmid (US) 28.14, 100m: P Rogers (Aus) 1min 0.19sec, 200m: Rogers 2:12.00. Backstroke: 100m: V Selkov (Russ) 53.20sec. Butterfly: 50m: D Pankratov (Russ) 23.48; 200m: Pankratov 1:52.34sec (world record). Individual medley: 100m: D Sheehan (Aus) 56.01sec, 200m: M Malivski (Pol) 1min 58.03sec. Women: Freestyle: 50m: N Meschenyakova (Russ) 25.28sec, 100m: D Zelmens (Lith) 55.31, 200m: C Poll (C Rica) 1min 56.43sec, 400m: Poll 4.04.93, 800m: E Zacharassen (Den) 8:43.31. Breaststroke: 50m: H Denman (Aus) 31.20sec, 100m: Denman 1min 7.73sec. Backstroke: 50m: N Zhyvanevskaya (Russ) 28.72sec. Backstroke: 200m: H Ricardo (Fr) 2min 10.95sec. Butterfly: 100m: A Kennedy (Aus) 59.88sec; 200m: C Jeanson (Fr) 2min 11.37sec. Individual medley: 200m: E Overton (Aus) 2:13.40.

TABLE TENNIS

CARDIFF: Welsh Open: Singles finals: Men: B Bellingham (Derbys) bt C Prean (Isle of Wight) 21-19, 21-17. Women: N Deaton (Derbys) bt S Rococo (Essex) 21-8, 21-12.

TENNIS

ATP RANKINGS: 1, A Agassi (US) 4,495pts; 2, T Muster (Austria) 4,474; 3, P Sampras (US) 4,465; 4, B Becker (Ger) 4,297; 5, M Chang (US) 3,592; 6, Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 2,709; 7, T Enqvist (Swe) 2,519; 8, J Courier (US) 2,400; 9, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,174; 10, W Ferreira (SA) 2,144.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Warwick Riga 0 Newcastle (Staffs) 3; Solent 3 Manchester Utd Salford 1; Wessex 3 Reebok Liverpool City 2; Whitefield 1 K L E A Leeds 3, Polonia Ealing 3 Tooting Aquilla 1; Team Mizuno Mallory Lewisham 3 Sheffield 0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Fourth round
* Bolton v Leeds (7.45)
Huddersfield v Peterborough (7.45)
Ipswich v Walsall (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
* Blackpool v Burnley
Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield
Carlisle v York (7.45)
Swansea v Stockport
Wycombe v Rotherham (7.45)

Third division
Chester v Northampton
Colchester v Scarborough (7.45)
Darlington v Hereford
* Rochdale v Preston (7.45)
Scunthorpe v Bury
Torquay v Barnet (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference
Bromsgrove v Telford (7.45)
Dover v Altrincham (7.45)
(10.00 pitch inspection)

Spalding Cup
Quarter-final
Kettering v Slough (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Dumbarton P
Second division:
Clyde v Queen of South
Tennents Scottish Cup
Third round
Berwick v Dundee Utd
Greenock Morton v Montrose

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v VS Rugby; Gravesend and Northfleet v Merthyr (7.45). Postponed: Rushden and Diamonds v Sudbury Tn. Midland division: Evesham v Buckingham Town; Leicester Utd v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Nuneaton. Southern division: Erith and Belvedere v Sittingbourne; Weymouth v Bashley. Dr Martens Cup: Fourth round: Hinckley Town v Moor Green.

ICIS LEAGUE. First division: Basingstoke v Marlow; Billericay v Thame; Heybridge Swifts v Staines; Wembley v Leyton Pennant. Second division: Barking v Egham Hampton v Saffron Walden; Leatherhead v Bracknell. Third division: Hertford v Northwood. Carlton Trophy: Third round: Hungerford v Hampton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Warrington v Lancaster City. League Cup: Fourth round: Leek v Accrington Stanley.

OTHER MATCH: Macclesfield v Ashton United.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Bristol Rovers (7.0); Queens Park Rangers v Arsenal (at Harrow Borough, 7.0); Watford v Southampton (2.0); West Ham v Norwich (7.0); Charlton v Wimbledon (at Welling Utd, 2.0). Second division: Cardiff v Newport AFC.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Stoke (7.0); Notts County v Manchester Utd (7.0). Second division: Manchester City v Grimsby (6.45).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Llanearthyad v Holyhead (7.45). Cup: Quarter-final, first leg: Caersws v Ebbw Vale; Fart Town v Connah's Quay.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Ballyclare v Ormagh.

IRISH LEAGUE. Coca-Cola Floodlit Cup: First round, second leg: Crusaders v Ballymena. Quarter-finals: Cliftonville v Coleraine; Glenavon v Ards; Glentoran v Linfield.

BANKS'S BREWERY: Premier division: Cradley Town v Hill Top Rangers; Premier division Cup: Quarter-final replay: Walsall Wood v Wolverhampton Casuals.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Viking Sports; Farnham v Cranleigh; Merstham v Chipstead.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Shillington v Letchworth.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Flixton v Burscough. League Cup: Third-round replay: Trafford v Kidsgrove.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Felixstowe; Halstead v Clacton; Harwich and Parkeston v Newmarket. League Cup: Quarter-final replay: Watboys v Halstead. Cup: Quarter-final: Diss v Tiptree, Fakenham v Ely.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Ryde Sports v Cowes Sports; Swanage and Herston v Thatcham.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Barwell v Pershore Town; Chasetown v Willenhall; Hinckley Athletic v Sandwell; Rocester v Halesowen H; Rushall O v Bolehall S.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Sheffield; Ossett Town v Denaby President's Cup: Fourth round: Hatfield Main v Selby, Liversedge v Brigg Town.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta v Whitstable; Sheppey v Corinthian; Slade Green v Cray.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round proper: Oldham Ath v Millwall; Plymouth v Crystal Palace.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (Kick-off 2.0 unless stated) FA Premier League under-18 Trophy: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire at Bodworth FC (7.15). English Schools Snickers under-19 Trophy: Second round: Barry Boys, South Glamorgan v Bodmin College, Cornwall. English Schools Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Heart of England: West Midlands v Nicholas Chamberlaine, Warwickshire.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated
Tour match
Ulster v New South Wales (at Ravenhill, 7.30)
Heineken League
First division
Neath v Aberavon
WRU Midweek Competition
Pool A
Abercynon v Pontypool
Pool B
Narberth v Dunvant
Tenby Utd v Llandovery
Pool C
Caerphilly v South Wales Police
Llanharan v Cardiff Inst.
Pool D
Bonymaen v Tondu
Ystradgynlais v Maesteg
CLUB MATCH: Tredegar v Newbridge.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30
Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Whitehaven v Halifax
Workington v Widnes P
JJB SPORTS ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain Academy v France (at Hull KR).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Crystal Palace v Sheffield (8.0).
BOXING: British super-bantamweight championship: Richie Wenton (Liverpool, holder) v Wilson Docherty (Glasgow) (Basildon Festival Hall).
SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley).
TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland).

BHB stands firm over policy of customer-friendly meetings

Levy Board joins attack on fixtures

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

RACING'S rulers and paymasters were seriously at odds yesterday over the Ladbrokes report which advocates important changes to the controversial "customer-friendly" fixture list.

Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, confirmed the analysis produced by Britain's biggest bookmakers that switching dozens of meetings from afternoons to evenings had affected off-course betting turnover and all-important levy revenue, which underpins the sport's finances.

He disclosed the betting decline would contribute to the closure of 700 of the nation's 9,500 betting shops in 1996 and implicitly acknowledged the need for the fixture list to be fine tuned to satisfy the interests of the off-course betting industry as well as the needs of racecourses.

However, David Oldrey, the chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and mastermind of the fixture list, rebutted the central plank of Ladbrokes's financial analysis, warned of the dangers posed by their suggested reforms to the fixture list — and insisted the principles behind this "customer-friendly" fixture policy were correct.

Switching meetings back to the afternoons was not "good business" for racing, he said. The fixture list had resulted in the best racecourse crowds for years. Overall, National Hunt's coffers had benefited from summer jump racing and Ladbrokes's recommendations — to have round-the-year Flat racing — could be "catastrophic" for jumping's finances.

"We are making considerable efforts to accommodate the views of the off-course bookmakers in agreeing on guidelines for the 1997 list and it is disappointing to see so little actual response in substance from Ladbrokes, even if the rhetoric is a considerable advance," Oldrey said.

"Perhaps it is as well to make clear that the BHB has no intention of going back on the principles of its customer-friendly fixture policy. That being so, it is impossible to fulfil more of Ladbrokes's wish list for 1997 than we have already indicated we plan to do, in terms of restricting evenings to four per week as far as possible, consolidating Sunday fixtures into blocks and looking for a further small reduction in the number of Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with two fixtures.

"Indeed, unless we sell jumping down the river, it will not happen thereafter until there are more horses or more money [or both] available to us in making our plans at the BHB."

The Ladbrokes report highlighted how the switch of meetings from afternoons — when betting shops are relatively full — to evenings and Sundays — when more people can go racing — had hit betting turnover and levy. It cost an estimated £1.5 million in 1995. The absence of 102 third fixtures on weekday afternoons, compared to 64 in 1993, would deprive racing of potential levy earnings of £3 million, the report said.

Brack disclosed that betting turnover is expected to fall by 4 per cent this year, with levy yield dropping from £55 million to £48 million. While the National Lottery was largely to blame — Ladbrokes estimate it is responsible for 75 per cent of the fall — Brack confirmed "there is little doubt that the racecourse 'customer-friendly' fixture list has also had an adverse effect on off-course betting," and estimated that this year betting shops would fall from 9,500 to 8,800.

With important talks over the shape of the 1997 fixture list due over the next few weeks, Brack added: "Racing is a spectator sport and we must not lose sight of that, but the objective should be to balance sufficient opportunities for racegoers with a programme which provides the maximum levy income for the industry.

"I believe there is scope for arranging the 1997 fixture list in a way which satisfies both the interest of the racecourse and the off-course betting market. Ladbrokes's report identifies some of the options."

Diary, page 18

Nap: MOI CANARD
(3.50 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Roman Reel
(4.20 Lingfield Park)

MARTIN BEDDALL



Brack confirmed that increase in evening fixtures had affected turnover

Salter banned after drugs test

DARREN SALTER, the conditional jockey, yesterday became the second rider to fail a drugs test. Salter's urine was found to contain cannabinoids after he was asked to provide a sample at Chepstow on November 22 last year.

The 23-year-old rider was banned for 21 days by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee, starting on Thursday. Salter said: "I deeply regret having had to appear before the disciplinary committee. The positive finding of cannabis came from my unknowingly consuming the drug in cake form at a party.

"I believe my explanation has been accepted by the committee and is reflected in the fact that I was disqualified for less than a month."

He follows apprentice Sean McCarthy, who was banned for two months in October after traces of cannabis and amphetamines were found in his urine sample.

By coincidence, the Jockey Club's medical adviser, Dr Michael Turner, has launched an education programme for jockeys with information on several subjects, including drug awareness, weight control and nutrition. The programme contains a booklet, produced by the charity Lifeline, that has been sent to all apprentice and conditional jockeys.

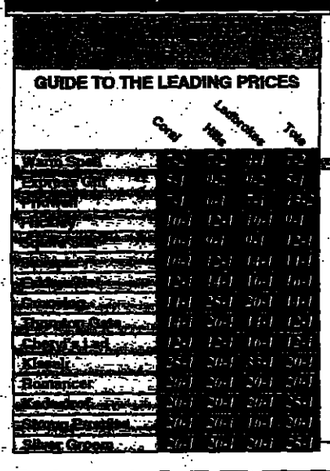
Turner said: "There is not the slightest evidence that jockeys are taking drugs on a larger scale than other individuals in this age group. In fact, there are good indications that the problem is considerably smaller in racing than in society at large."

It was a busy day for the Jockey Club. After a 4½-hour inquiry, trainer Leo Lungo and jockey Tim Reed were exonerated from committing a breach of rule 151 of the rules of racing over the running and riding of Livio at Haydock last December. The gelding, a 14-1 chance, was described as "never placed to challenge" by the official form book and eventually finished eighth, beaten 19 lengths.

The matter was referred to the Jockey Club after Livio had subsequently won at Catterick a week later, when sent off the 6-4 favourite. Lungo said: "Considering the difference in quality of the Haydock and Catterick races, and that Livio had been dropped 4lb in error between the races by the handicapper, the win came as no surprise."

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market



GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Ladbrokes	Hills	Tote
Warm Spell	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
Frickley	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1
Kempton	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
Creeping	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Handicap	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Maximum	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1
Mystic	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Premium	9-1	9-1	9-1	9-1
Bonanza	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Cheltenham	11-1	11-1	11-1	11-1
Classic	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Kempton	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Bonanza	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Cheltenham	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Classic	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Kempton	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Bonanza	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Cheltenham	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1
Classic	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
Kempton	150-1	150-1	150-1	150-1
Bonanza	200-1	200-1	200-1	200-1
Cheltenham	250-1	250-1	250-1	250-1
Classic	300-1	300-1	300-1	300-1
Kempton	400-1	400-1	400-1	400-1
Bonanza	500-1	500-1	500-1	500-1
Cheltenham	750-1	750-1	750-1	750-1
Classic	1000-1	1000-1	1000-1	1000-1
Kempton	1500-1	1500-1	1500-1	1500-1
Bonanza	2000-1	2000-1	2000-1	2000-1
Cheltenham	3000-1	3000-1	3000-1	3000-1
Classic	4000-1	4000-1	4000-1	4000-1
Kempton	5000-1	5000-1	5000-1	5000-1
Bonanza	6000-1	6000-1	6000-1	6000-1
Cheltenham	7500-1	7500-1	7500-1	7500-1
Classic	10000-1	10000-1	10000-1	10000-1
Kempton	15000-1	15000-1	15000-1	15000-1
Bonanza	20000-1	20000-1	20000-1	20000-1
Cheltenham	30000-1	30000-1	30000-1	30000-1
Classic	40000-1	40000-1	40000-1	40000-1
Kempton	50000-1	50000-1	50000-1	50000-1
Bonanza	60000-1	60000-1	60000-1	60000-1
Cheltenham	75000-1	75000-1	75000-1	75000-1
Classic	100000-1	100000-1	100000-1	100000-1
Kempton	150000-1	150000-1	150000-1	150000-1
Bonanza	200000-1	200000-1	200000-1	200000-1
Cheltenham	300000-1	300000-1	300000-1	300000-1
Classic	400000-1	400000-1	400000-1	400000-1
Kempton	500000-1	500000-1	500000-1	500000-1
Bonanza	600000-1	600000-1	600000-1	600000-1
Cheltenham	750000-1	750000-1	750000-1	750000-1
Classic	1000000-1	1000000-1	1000000-1	1000000-1
Kempton	1500000-1	1500000-1	1500000-1	1500000-1
Bonanza	2000000-1	2000000-1	2000000-1	2000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000-1	3000000-1	3000000-1	3000000-1
Classic	4000000-1	4000000-1	4000000-1	4000000-1
Kempton	5000000-1	5000000-1	5000000-1	5000000-1
Bonanza	6000000-1	6000000-1	6000000-1	6000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000-1	7500000-1	7500000-1	7500000-1
Classic	10000000-1	10000000-1	10000000-1	10000000-1
Kempton	15000000-1	15000000-1	15000000-1	15000000-1
Bonanza	20000000-1	20000000-1	20000000-1	20000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000-1	30000000-1	30000000-1	30000000-1
Classic	40000000-1	40000000-1	40000000-1	40000000-1
Kempton	50000000-1	50000000-1	50000000-1	50000000-1
Bonanza	60000000-1	60000000-1	60000000-1	60000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000-1	75000000-1	75000000-1	75000000-1
Classic	100000000-1	100000000-1	100000000-1	100000000-1
Kempton	150000000-1	150000000-1	150000000-1	150000000-1
Bonanza	200000000-1	200000000-1	200000000-1	200000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000-1	300000000-1	300000000-1	300000000-1
Classic	400000000-1	400000000-1	400000000-1	400000000-1
Kempton	500000000-1	500000000-1	500000000-1	500000000-1
Bonanza	600000000-1	600000000-1	600000000-1	600000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000-1	750000000-1	750000000-1	750000000-1
Classic	1000000000-1	1000000000-1	1000000000-1	1000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000-1	1500000000-1	1500000000-1	1500000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000-1	2000000000-1	2000000000-1	2000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000-1	3000000000-1	3000000000-1	3000000000-1
Classic	4000000000-1	4000000000-1	4000000000-1	4000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000-1	5000000000-1	5000000000-1	5000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000-1	6000000000-1	6000000000-1	6000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000-1	7500000000-1	7500000000-1	7500000000-1
Classic	10000000000-1	10000000000-1	10000000000-1	10000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000-1	15000000000-1	15000000000-1	15000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000-1	20000000000-1	20000000000-1	20000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000-1	30000000000-1	30000000000-1	30000000000-1
Classic	40000000000-1	40000000000-1	40000000000-1	40000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000-1	50000000000-1	50000000000-1	50000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000-1	60000000000-1	60000000000-1	60000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000-1	75000000000-1	75000000000-1	75000000000-1
Classic	100000000000-1	100000000000-1	100000000000-1	100000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000-1	150000000000-1	150000000000-1	150000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000-1	200000000000-1	200000000000-1	200000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000-1	300000000000-1	300000000000-1	300000000000-1
Classic	400000000000-1	400000000000-1	400000000000-1	400000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000-1	500000000000-1	500000000000-1	500000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000-1	600000000000-1	600000000000-1	600000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000-1	750000000000-1	750000000000-1	750000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000-1	1000000000000-1	1000000000000-1	1000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000-1	1500000000000-1	1500000000000-1	1500000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000-1	2000000000000-1	2000000000000-1	2000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000-1	3000000000000-1	3000000000000-1	3000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000-1	4000000000000-1	4000000000000-1	4000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000-1	5000000000000-1	5000000000000-1	5000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000-1	6000000000000-1	6000000000000-1	6000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000-1	7500000000000-1	7500000000000-1	7500000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000-1	10000000000000-1	10000000000000-1	10000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000-1	15000000000000-1	15000000000000-1	15000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000-1	20000000000000-1	20000000000000-1	20000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000-1	30000000000000-1	30000000000000-1	30000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000-1	40000000000000-1	40000000000000-1	40000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000-1	50000000000000-1	50000000000000-1	50000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000-1	60000000000000-1	60000000000000-1	60000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000-1	75000000000000-1	75000000000000-1	75000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000-1	100000000000000-1	100000000000000-1	100000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000-1	150000000000000-1	150000000000000-1	150000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000-1	200000000000000-1	200000000000000-1	200000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000-1	300000000000000-1	300000000000000-1	300000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000-1	400000000000000-1	400000000000000-1	400000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000-1	500000000000000-1	500000000000000-1	500000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000-1	600000000000000-1	600000000000000-1	600000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000-1	750000000000000-1	750000000000000-1	750000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000-1	1000000000000000-1	1000000000000000-1	1000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000-1	1500000000000000-1	1500000000000000-1	1500000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000-1	2000000000000000-1	2000000000000000-1	2000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000-1	3000000000000000-1	3000000000000000-1	3000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000-1	4000000000000000-1	4000000000000000-1	4000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000-1	5000000000000000-1	5000000000000000-1	5000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000-1	6000000000000000-1	6000000000000000-1	6000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000-1	7500000000000000-1	7500000000000000-1	7500000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000-1	10000000000000000-1	10000000000000000-1	10000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000-1	15000000000000000-1	15000000000000000-1	15000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000-1	20000000000000000-1	20000000000000000-1	20000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000-1	30000000000000000-1	30000000000000000-1	30000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000-1	40000000000000000-1	40000000000000000-1	40000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000-1	50000000000000000-1	50000000000000000-1	50000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000-1	60000000000000000-1	60000000000000000-1	60000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000-1	75000000000000000-1	75000000000000000-1	75000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000-1	100000000000000000-1	100000000000000000-1	100000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000-1	150000000000000000-1	150000000000000000-1	150000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000-1	200000000000000000-1	200000000000000000-1	200000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000-1	300000000000000000-1	300000000000000000-1	300000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000-1	400000000000000000-1	400000000000000000-1	400000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000-1	500000000000000000-1	500000000000000000-1	500000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000-1	600000000000000000-1	600000000000000000-1	600000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000000-1	750000000000000000-1	750000000000000000-1	750000000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	750000000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000000-1	750000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	1000000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000000-1	1000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	1500000000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000000-1	1500000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	2000000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000000-1	2000000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	3000000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000000-1	3000000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	4000000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000000-1	4000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	5000000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000000-1	5000000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	6000000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000000-1	6000000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	7500000000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000000-1	7500000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	10000000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000000-1	10000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	15000000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000000-1	15000000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	20000000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000000-1	20000000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	30000000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000000-1	30000000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	40000000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000000-1	40000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	50000000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000000-1	50000000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	60000000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000000-1	60000000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	75000000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000000-1	75000000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	100000000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000000-1	100000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	150000000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000000-1	150000000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	200000000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000000-1	200000000000000000000000000000000-1
Cheltenham	300000000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000000-1	300000000000000000000000000000000-1
Classic	400000000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000000-1	400000000000000000000000000000000-1
Kempton	500000000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000000-1	500000000000000000000000000000000-1
Bonanza	600000000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000000-1	600000000000000000000000000000000-1
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Smiling team of Formula One seeks out new roots with Sicilian pageant

Schumacher leaves Benetton looking back to the future

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN TAORMINA, SICILY

THE Benetton Formula One team began life after Michael Schumacher here yesterday by swapping their roaring cars for a horse and cart. In a day laden with symbols of renewal and rebirth, they launched their attempt to retain the world constructors' and drivers' championships won so convincingly last year by creating a new identity for themselves.

They colonised this small, chic resort town in the shadow of Mount Etna, bedecked it with posters and flags and used it to bathe in their recently established Italian nationality and the Sicilian heritage of their new star driver, Jean Alesi. In a riot of pomp and celebration that cost more than £1 million, they made a clean break with their glorious past to make a show of going back to their roots.

Formula One had never seen a launch like it. It began in an ampitheatre used by the Romans to stage gladiatorial combat with the unveiling of the car that Alesi and his team-mate, Gerhard Berger, will drive this season against the might of Ferrari and Schumacher, and the championship favourites, Williams and Damon Hill. The blue drape was pulled away in a flourish to reveal the Benetton-Renault on a pedestal against a backdrop of huge stone columns and a majestic view.

Then Alesi and Berger drove their cars through alleys so narrow they made the streets of Monaco look like six-lane highways, besieged by a delighted and clamouring crowd. After they had completed a pit-stop in a piazza, the drivers leapt into a cart and were led back through the throng by a white horse adorned by a head-dress of ostrich feathers. It seemed like a medieval feast day.

The event was a prime example of the Benetton philosophy of taking the sport to the people. Journalists were flown in from all over the world to witness the team embracing its Italian nationality. "We are a team now with a heart that beats in Italian," Alessandro Benetton said. "But we communicate all over the world in different languages. It is important we carry on as the smiling team in Formula One."

The prospect of Frank Williams, the Williams team owner, and his technical director, Patrick Head, facing manslaughter charges over the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix in May 1994 receded yesterday. Italian legal sources said that it was "increasingly unlikely" that any action would be brought against them.

At the centre of the festivities was Alesi, the man Benetton have singled out as possessing the charisma and driving style to lessen the trauma of Schumacher's departure. The new man was treated as a returning hero by the thousands who lined the Corso Umberto, the main thoroughfare. One group of supporters danced in front of his car holding up a banner thatread: "Alesi, your hour has come."

In his four years at Ferrari, Alesi never quite fulfilled the great expectations he had built up in his short time at Tyrrell. But Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, has taken him to his heart, determined to create the supportive atmosphere many feel he needs to thrive. Although born in Avignon, in France, his parents were both natives of Sicily and he was christened Giovanni. And so the idea of a launch here was conceived.

More and more it seems that, although he and Berger are supposed to enjoy equal status within the team, Alesi may be more equal than the Austrian. The team is adamant that both will be treated the same, but Berger may find himself struggling to compete.

"I used to come here as a child for holidays," Alesi said, "but I never imagined I would ever be here driving a Formula One car through the streets. It was an amazing feeling being so close to the people and being able to feel their enthusiasm.

"When I was with Ferrari, I was with a really top team. But, by joining Benetton, I know I have joined a winning team. They have won the drivers' world championship for the last two years and I have to work now to be able to continue this level of success.

"I feel I have a chance to do my best again now and be able to do something really good. It is a strong feeling. I know that I have great possibilities at Benetton and my ambition to be world champion is clear."

At the end of a day that was crowned by the presentation of last year's championship trophy by Max Mosley, president of the International Motor Sport Federation (Fia), Briatore was exultant. "Before, no one knew whether we were English or Italian," he said. "Now everyone knows."

TONY GENTILE



Berger drives the new Benetton-Renault through the streets of Taormina yesterday

Of butter and baby boobies

The Reith Lectures: The Web of Language. *Radio 4, 8.30pm.*

Professor Jean Aitchison is not good news for linguistic purists. She foresees the time when glottal-stop words such as "buh-er" will win out over "butter", and end-of-word consonants will disappear. As evidence, she conjures up the voices of Cilla Black and Lenny Henry. If you think you hear chains clinking during her lecture, it is because she busies herself cutting the links that bind the English language to the past. To illustrate her disapproval of linguistic rigidity, she chooses a metaphor that even a dullard can understand — the Galapagos blue-footed baby booby that never learns the lesson that falling out of its nest can have fatal results.

Cara Mia: The David Whitfield Story. *Radio 2, 9.00pm.*

On what would have been his 70th birthday if he had lived, the popular singer David Whitfield is fondly remembered in Stephen Pattinson's radio biography, narrated by his contemporary Dennis Lotis. I must confess I was not over-fond of his voice. He was one of those soaring and tremulous tenors much employed in Hollywood musicals of the 1930s and 1940s: Allan Jones and Dick Powell were among his precursors; as was George Guetary and, at his worst, Richard Tauber. But what I thought about David Whitfield is neither here nor there really because he was the nation's favourite right enough, and in 1955 became the first British male vocalist to be awarded a gold disc.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 5.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat and 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.30 The Mix 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Cling Film 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester Midnight Wendy Lloyd, incl at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hayes over Britain 8.30 Penmanric (4/6) 9.00 Cara Mia: the David Whitfield Story. Sea Choice 10.00 Explorer 2 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester, including at 3.30 Pause for Thought.

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.35 Euronews 11.30 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl 12.34pm Moneycheck 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05pm Russcoe on Five, incl 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra; with Valerie Sanderson 7.35 The Tuesday Match 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Mog Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 6.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 The Planets 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 International Recital. 9.00 News in German 9.15 My Music 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Thirty-Minute Drama 12.00 News 12.05pm Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Your Brain Changes Shape 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: Hit List 3.00 News in German 3.15 On Screen 3.30 Omnibus 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Megamix 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Invitation to the Dance 11.15 Anything Goes 11.45 Country Style Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am What's News? 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 On Screen 1.30 Western Music 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Andy Kershaw 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 The Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Meppin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Gluck (Ballet: Alleassandro); Schubert (Symphony No 1 in D); Rossini (Overture: William Tell); Blow (God spake sometimes in visions); Chopin (Prelude in D flat, Op 28 No 15, Raindrop); Strauss (Oboe Concerto)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Poulenc (Flute Sonata); Grieg (Solveig's Song, Peer Gynt); Liszt (Pastorale; Au bord d'une source; Orage, Années de pèlerinage); Chausson (Poème de l'amour et de la mer)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Meyrluet (Inclite flos); Alkan (Le Festin); 10.18 Artist of the Week: Nancy Argenta, soprano. Chabrier (Four songs); 10.30 Martin (Ballade); 10.44 Brahms, orch Schoenberg (Piano Quartet in G minor); Mozart (Andante in C); 11.34 Howells (Requiem)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Les Six. Satie (Parade); Tailleferre (Premières proussesses; String Quartet); Milhaud (Chamber Symphonies: No 1, Printemps; No 2, Pastorale); Poulenc (Sonata for piano duet)

1.00pm The BBC Orchestras. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. Dukas (La Péri); D'Indy (Iser); Franck (Les Eolides)

2.00 Schools: Playtime 2.15 Time to Move 2.35 Listen!

3.00 Dichterliebe. Schubert's song cycle for voice and piano (r)

3.35 The BBC Orchestras. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Thierry Fischer. Rossini (Overture: The Italian Girl in Algiers); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Fauré (Suite: Masques et bergamasques); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C)

5.00 The Music Machine

5.15 In Tune. From the Festival of American Music and Arts in Glasgow, with Brian Morton

7.30 Pebble Mill. Dmitri Alexeev, piano. Schubert (12 German Dances; Klavierstück in E flat minor); Schubert, transc Liszt (Sei mir gegrüsst; Auf dem Wasser zu singen; Du bist die Ruh; Aufenthalt, Schwanengesang); 8.15 Derek Watson considers Liszt's thoughts on his musical forebears; 8.35 Liszt (Variations on a Theme of Bach, Weinen, Klagen; Nuages gris; Recueillement; RW — Venezia; Mephisto Waltz No 1)

9.30 History Now and Then. Nationalism. John Breuilly and Anthony Smith examine the historical origins of the nation state

9.50 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Stanislaw Skrowaczewski. Lutoslawski (concerto for Orchestra); Panufnik (Nocturne, 1955)

10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter talks to Ann Douglas

11.30-12.30am Music Restored. The Palladian Ensemble perform music by Buonamente, Turini, Rebel and Bach

1.00-1.40 Night School. Dance for PE

RADIO 4

5.65am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Very Rev Gilleasbuig Macmillan 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross 0171-580 4444

10.00-10.30 News; Crimescapes (FM only). Stockholm. On a dismal November night, nine people are brutally murdered on a Stockholm bus. Leslie Forbes investigates the crime invented by writer Maj Sjowall, whose novels hold a mirror to Swedish society, reflecting it from a communist point of view

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray

11.30 Medicine Now. With Geoff Watts

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Word of Mouth. Russell Davies presents a series about words and the way we speak. Today, a look at the language of the double entendre (3/6) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping

2.00 News; Journeys into Space: Space Fictions. Conquering Cyberspace

2.30 The Search for Nicholas Ludford. Until recently, all that was known of the 16th-century English composer Nicholas Ludford was his exquisite music. Then music historian David Skinner discovered Ludford's will, his accounts and numerous other documents concerning his life. Christopher Page puts flesh on the bones of this elusive genius (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift. Gabrielle Sanders explores community policing in Brighton's gay village (1/2)

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan talks to the author Carl Haassen as he publishes a new book on crime and sees Athol Fugard's new play, Valley Song

4.45 Short Story: The Graffiti Queen of Adelaide Terrace, by Bernadette Crosthwaite

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Any Other Business (4/6) (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 File on 4 8.00 Science Now

8.30 The 1996 Reith Lectures — the Language Web. See Choice

9.00 In Touch 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight. With Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: God Stand Up for Bastards. Journalist and author David Leitch reads his autobiography (2/8)

11.00 Mediumwave (r)

11.30-12.00 The Street (FM only). High Street, Bottesford (3/6)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather.

12.30 The Late Book: Reef. Shiv Grewal reads Romesh Gunesekera's first novel (2/7)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE: MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK: MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Whitehead gets an Olympic run for his money



McColgan: chosen for Atlanta marathon

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER WHITEHEAD, the leading British runner in the world marathon championships last year, was rewarded yesterday for his personal financial commitment to his athletics when he was chosen to run in the Atlanta Olympic Games. Alan Warner, the chairman of Great Britain's marathon selectors, described Whitehead as "a journeyman runner who has made all the sacrifices".

On the strength of a best time of 2hr 17min, at the age of 29, Whitehead gave up his job, remortgaged his house, left his wife working in a bank in Leeds and went to Albuquerque, where heat and altitude provided him with an ideal training environment. Nine months later, in August last year, he finished fourth in the world championships in Gothenburg. It was a steamy day but the closest African finished four minutes behind. The humidity and heat of Atlanta hold no fears for him.

Since Gothenburg, Whitehead has remortgaged his house again and turned down $20,000 (about £13,000) to compete in Korea next month. His debts are mounting, especially after another spell in Albuquerque and spending more than £1,000 on treatment for a pelvic injury. His selection yesterday was conditional on him proving his fitness in a "competitive" half-marathon by May 31.

"I have been paying for my rent, paying to live, and paying for treatment, while Sandra [his wife] has been living in Leeds," Whitehead, now back in Britain for specialist advice, said. "I could have done the marathon in Korea, turned up half-fit and taken the money, which would have sorted me out financially, but it would have risked bringing the injury back on.

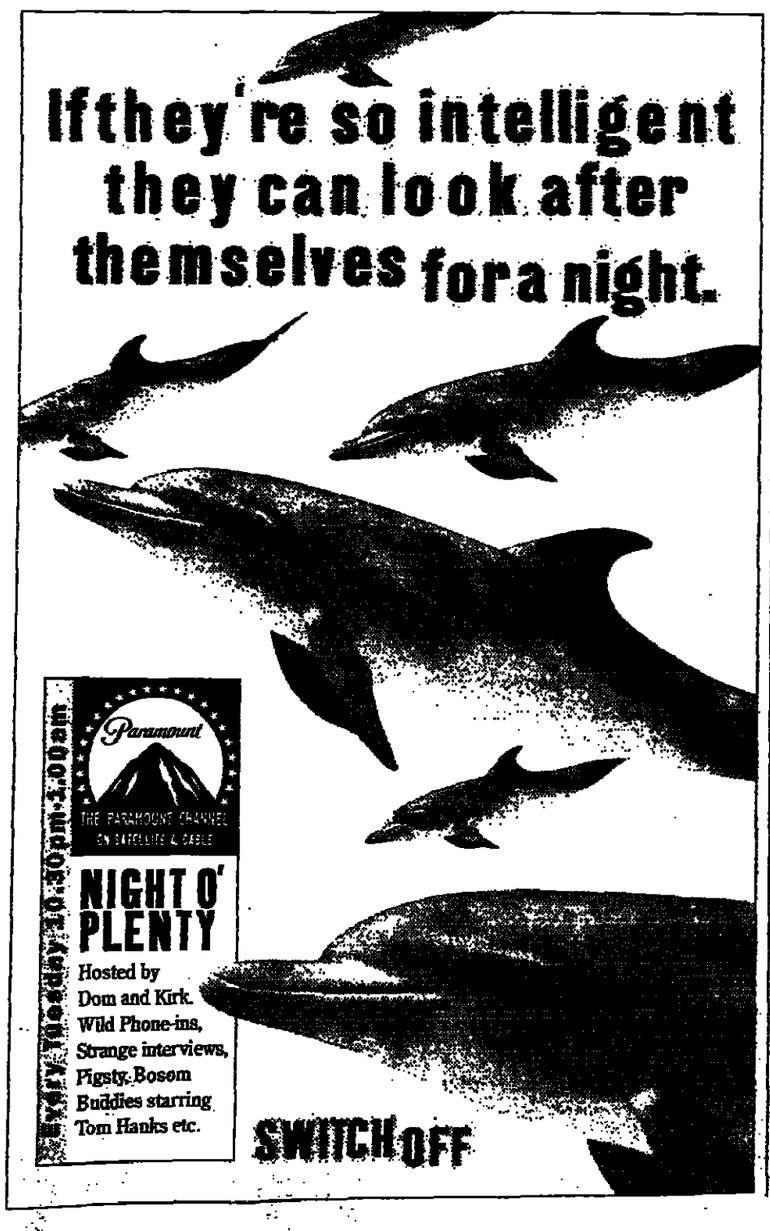
"It could have jeopardised my Olympics so I am saying 'no'. I am putting everything on the line for Atlanta."

The other runner selected yesterday, Richard Nerurkar, the 1993 World Cup winner, has also been injured but has almost recovered. He, too, must prove his fitness in a half-marathon by May 31.

Only two of the three places have been filled, so the announcement yesterday that Eamonn Martin, Paul Evans, Gary Staines and Jon Solly will contest the Flora London Marathon on April 21 is timely. The remainder of the Britain Olympic squad will be announced a week later. Two women will be added to join Liz McColgan, named yesterday, plus reserves.

Warner insisted that London did not constitute a run-off and that "performances in the type of conditions that are going to pertain in Atlanta" remained important.

However, any Briton winning in London would surely have to be picked. Disquiet yesterday that Nerurkar has been selected prematurely would reach a crescendo if, with only one place left, two men beat 2hr 10min, which no Briton has since 1989.



Hicks rises to the occasion

BY PHIL YATES

ANDY HICKS, whose best performances tend to coincide with the game's showpiece occasions, enjoyed an exceptional debut in the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament when he beat David Roe 5-2 in their wild-card play-off match at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Hicks, who earned a sponsor's invitation to the event by reaching the semi-finals of the world and UK championships last year, became only the second player to compile three century breaks in a best-of-nine-frame contest since the event began in 1975.

Runs of 67, 102 and 63 propelled Hicks into a 3-1 lead before he won the sixth and seventh frames with runs of 125 and 103. It was a feat only previously achieved by Stephen Hendry during a 5-4 second-round victory over Ken Doherty in 1993.

"It seems as though good conditions and the atmosphere at a big venue always help to raise my game. I can't remember ever playing better than that and it was one of those days when everything fell into place." Hicks, who plays James Wattana in the second round, said.

Rarely during the 1990s, a decade in which he has been replaced by Hendry as the outstanding player in the game, has Steve Davis taken a match by the scruff of the neck as he did during a 6-0 whitewash of Doherty on Sunday evening. Davis, employing a new cue slightly longer than the one with which he has failed to win a title for 13 months, exuded confidence with breaks of 65, 88, 104, 73 and 78.

"Suddenly the game is effortless again," Davis said. He described playing with the 17 ounce, two-piece model designed for him by John Parris, a London cue-smith, as "heaven".

"I have struck a purple patch and it's great occasionally to throw off the chains that have tied me down." Davis, six times the world champion, said. Davis has fallen from second to ninth in the provisional rankings.

Results 44

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

ASCESIS

(b) The practice of self-discipline. From the Greek *askisis* exercise, training, *askein* to visit one's personal trainer. "The charm of ascesis, of the austere and serious girding of the loins in youth."

EXODONTIST

(a) A tooth-puller or dentist, from the Greek *ex-* out + *odous, odont-* a tooth. *Exodontia* is the extraction of teeth. So an *exodontist* is a specialist in *exodontia*. "The development of skill in inducing anesthesia has made it possible to perform the oft-times intricate phases of exodontia in such a manner as to grant the patient freedom from the sensation of pain." If you believe that, you'll believe anything, as Jane Russell said to Bob Hope playing a timid dentist in *The Paleface*.

CAPSID

(b) A tiny shell or envelope for holding such infinitesimal things as proteins, from the Latin *capsa* a box. "Capsid is the quasi-crystalline shell, built up by the regular arrangement of capsomeres, to produce the structure that is the stable and transmissible form of some viruses."

FLAMINGANT

(b) An advocate of the recognition of Flemish as an official language of Belgium, or of the exclusive use of Flemish in certain parts of Belgium. From the French *flamengé(e)* Flemish-speaking, Dutch *Vlaming*. "Militant Flamingantism had been able to come to power in some municipalities."

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Sometimes doctors seem to be out of order



Peter Barnard

The next set of hospital wards to reopen ought to be devoted to image transplants for the medical establishment, a body which is suffering from rigor mortis of the communication joints. No group of people on the British landscape, with the possible exception of politicians, is more adept at making a reasonable case sound like pompous stonewalling.

Take for example last night's Cutting Edge: The Treatment (Channel 4). On the one hand we had Cari Loder, the vivacious and confident young woman who may have stumbled upon a treatment for multiple sclerosis.

The facts of the matter are that Loder, having developed MS at the age of 31, went to her doctor for antidepressants and, shortly after taking the drugs (along with others prescribed for the MS) found that all of her symptoms went into remission.

Loder has turned into a one-woman band of hope. Hundreds of other MS sufferers contacted her and many of them have had similar results. After a long battle with indifference, a drugs company has at last agreed to carry out clinical trials.

Whether Loder's "cure" is real or psychosomatic or a mere fluke I know not. Loder herself makes no claims, beyond: this is how I was, this is what I did and this is how I am now. One might think that the medical powers that be, faced with a cripple who has taken up her bed and walked, would hurry round to find out more, to investigate.

Alas. Here is Professor Ian McDonald, a distinguished practitioner from the Institute of Neurology: "In 90 per cent of patients there is spontaneous remission which, occurring in the early stages, is complete."

No doubt this statement is accurate but is it the kind of response likely to assist Big Medicine in its battle for public sympathy? And how exactly does that response square with the case of Sarah Rose, an MS sufferer for 27 years, whose symptoms dramatically declined within weeks of starting to use the Loder treatment?

The key point is a broader one. Professor McDonald and his kind are right to be sceptical, otherwise every half-baked notion would turn into a potion for rubbing on the limbs or pouring down the throats of patients desperate for a straw to clutch at.

One problem with such public expression of this scepticism is that it has the reverse effect from the one intended. It drives us towards alternative sources of comfort, be they ever so wacky. It encourages the belief that the medical establishment regards itself as having sole access to that which is good for us and will be sure to let us know when and if some suitable tablets can be brought down from the mountain.

In public relations terms, this leads to a case of the devil having all the best tunes. Loder's massive personality thrusts aside doubt: when she had a minor attack of MS symptoms late in the filming of this documentary, she put it down to stress. Well, maybe. Looked at clinically, the attack perhaps reinforced what Professor McDonald had to say. But by then I would hazard that most viewers had entirely forgotten him, except as a vague figure standing in the way of what they wished to believe.

The present series of Omnibus (BBC1) has produced some excellent films and *A Day on The Mountain* continued the run. *Omnibus* took a poet, a painter and a photographer to interpret Saint Victoire, the mountain in Provence which became an obsession for Cézanne.

One of the points to emerge, notably through the relative honesty of the camera lens as the photographer set up his shot, was that Cézanne always painted the mountain proportionately much larger than it really is, much like a child recalling the house in which it grew up.

The film also used some words of Cézanne, brought to light for the first time, from a rare interview he gave 100 years ago. He explained his passion for detail and the reason he revisited so many subjects so many times: "The same subject seen from a different angle gives a study so varied that I think I could be fully occupied simply by bending a little more to the right or the left."

Cézanne's real and only subject, whatever appeared on the canvas, was paint and painting. Colour, light, shade and their relationships. In these matters he was a genius, recognised as such at the highest level: "In heaven, they know I am Cézanne." I cannot think what he meant by that but I am sure he was right.

Channel 4's series Classic Ships took fishing boats for its second part and took some licence with the theme by straying too far into the fishing and not far enough into the boats. But it was good to see the Cornish lugger still afloat, a vessel craftily designed: it needed five men to sail it, the same number as were needed to do the fishing.

In this, the early part of the century, no Common Fisheries Policy had evolved to issue monthly quotas and pay fishermen to set fire to their boats: oh no, these were the bad old days.

A few sceptics did wonder why luggers were built to be so fast and why some of them had hollowed-out keels. The answer was that the vessels had to be able to outrun Revenue boats, given the illicit booze in the keel. Smuggling? Shame on you for such a thought.

"It's not smuggling, free trading we called that," announced a Cornish voice. We Cornish have always believed in free trade, the difference being that nowadays we can bring back all the booze we can carry. It's the fish we have to smuggle.

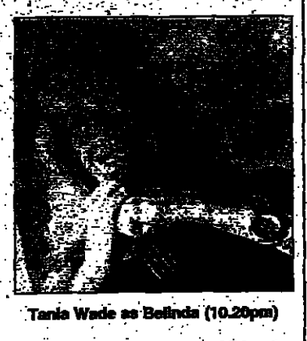
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (29822)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (50693)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (4216167)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3397902)
9.45 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (4340506)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (33457)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6184983) **12.05pm Turnabout** (s) (9635051) **12.30 Going for a Song** (48761)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (53780) **1.30 Regional News** and weather (77775148)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (34553235)
2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9822438)
2.40 Snooker — the Masters. Dougie Donnelly introduces live coverage of the second-round matches (s) (2155457)
3.50 ChuckleVision (s) (5129490) **4.10 Free Willy** (Ceefax) (s) (6040983) **4.35 Run the Risk**. (Ceefax) (s) (5210380) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1194083) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1852322)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (876186) **N.I.: 5.35** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (273)
6.30 Regional News Magazines. (525) **N.I.: 6.30** Neighbours
7.00 Holiday. Featuring reports from the exotic beach resort of Essaoulra in Morocco; Guyana in the Caribbean; a budget family holiday on Spain's Costa Brava and the thrills of hang-gliding in Sussex (Ceefax) (s) (1099)
7.30 EastEnders. Robbie and Sarah's evening with the Jacksons doesn't go as planned (Ceefax) (s) (709)
8.00 Great Ormond Street. The staff of the intensive care unit battle to save four youngsters with meningococcal septicaemia, while the infectious diseases team struggle to understand a mysterious illness affecting a 12-year-old from Pakistan (Ceefax) (7419)
8.30 Next of Kin. Maggie and Andrew's plans for a quiet night in to celebrate their wedding anniversary are disrupted by some unwanted visitors (Ceefax) (s) (9254)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7344)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Tony and Gary tackle the subtle art of seduction (r) (Ceefax) (s) (68525)
10.00 The X Files: Fenasculafax (Ceefax) (s) (333341)
10.40 Subway — Inside Story. The police team who fight crime on the London Underground (r) (Ceefax) (s) (115032) **N.I.: 10.40** On Air **11.30** Subway — Inside Story **12.30-2.00am** FILM: The Long Journey Home **WALES: 10.40** Men Behaving Badly **11.10** Subway — Inside Story **12.10-1.45am** FILM: A Perfect Little Murder
11.40 FILM: A Perfect Little Murder (1990) with Teri Garr and Robert Urich. A housewife turns amateur sleuth when she overhears her neighbour plotting a murder. Directed by Anson Williams (988631)
1.15am Weather (1002823)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Animal Physiology (2107525) **6.25** Oceanography (1731631)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (s) (8528254)
7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (71186) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5997379) **8.25 Juniper Jungle** (r) (s) (8410186)
8.40 The Record (s) (1197867)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Lemexpress (4206780) **9.25** See You, See Me (4226544) **9.45** Watch (5028380) **10.00** Playdays (5851032) **10.25** Come Outside (8601780) **10.45** The Experimenter (7546051) **11.05** Space Ark (3789851) **11.15** Clementine (7283631) **11.30** Ghostwriter (9099) **12.00** See Hear (18032) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (79631) **1.00** Teaching Today (61322) **1.30** Showcase (77786490) **1.40** Hotch Potch House (34551877)
2.00 Juniper Jungle (r) (s) (36761964)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (9376544)
3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2191709) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (s) (4981032) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (1182167)
4.00 Snooker — the Masters. (s) (8148)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (845877)
6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (750186)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. Animation (Ceefax) (s) (421631)
7.30 Local Heroes: North West. Last of the series. John Gough was a brilliant botanist who, although completely blind identified many rare plants; a bicycle pump and a disgusting jelly are used to demonstrate John Mackereth's pneumatic lake bottom-corer, and, at Helvellyn's summit, John Dalton's weather experiments are reproduced (Ceefax) (s) (821)
8.00 Poland for Pound, investigating the companies that claim they can get you out of the negative equity trap (3261)
8.30 Food and Drink. Tips on preparing roast beef with celeriac; a taste test on German wines; and Sandi Toksvig samples a midnight feast on a train in Norway (Ceefax) (s) (7896)
9.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Comedy with Rodney Bewes and James Bolam (r) (Ceefax) (6506)
9.30 The House: High Hopes (Ceefax) (s) (360235)



Tania Wade as Belinda (10.20pm)

10.20 Screen Firsts: Eight for Eight-Thirty (b/w) (s) (529273)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (940815)
11.15 Snooker — the Masters. Ronnie O'Sullivan begins the defence of his title (s) (814186)
11.55 Weather (263148)
12.05am The Midnight Hour (s) (6016842)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

The Decision: The Wrong Body
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Fredd, Zach and Jarad suffer from gender dysphoria. In plain English, this means that they were born as girls but have come to realise that they are trapped in the wrong body. Taking boys' names is only the first step towards adopting the male gender. For Fredd, who is only 13, the transformation is particularly difficult. He is still at school and being teased by his classmates. Hormones and surgery are the means towards effecting the change of sex, but in Britain doctors are reluctant to act before patients reach the age of 21. This is not the case in Holland, which leads the field in the study and treatment of transsexuals. A two-part documentary, which handles a tricky subject frankly but with sensitivity, follows Fredd, Zach and Jarad on a trip to Amsterdam, to see specialists and discuss the possibilities of surgery. Part two is next week.

The House: High Hopes
BBC2, 9.30pm

The latest bulletin from the Royal Opera House introduces Peter and Bill, barmen each with 30 years' service but not on speaking terms. Luckily the Crush Bar is long enough for this distance to be amicably maintained. The weightier story features Mike Morris, the director of personnel, as he tries to negotiate a new deal with the stage crews. At stake are old-fashioned working practices not pleasing to the house's accountants. The cameras follow Morris and his union opposite number in an intricate game of cat and mouse. At the Royal Ballet, meanwhile, aspiring 12-year-olds are auditioning for *The Nutcracker*. If the material is less sensational than in previous programmes, this continues to be a revealing insight into a cumbersome institution trying to become lean and efficient.

The X Files
BBC1, 10.00pm

This quality series continues to be creepily convincing not only about the future nightmares of science but, even more, about conspiracies of silence in the higher reaches of the United States Government. The two strains, a cracking sci-fi yarn and a sinister official cover-up, are shrewdly mixed in the latest episode. Two lifers escape from a Virginia prison, carrying a contagious disease which has taken the lives of ten of their fellow inmates. The task for FBI agents Mulder and Scully is to capture the men before they infect anybody else. But our heroes uncover an even darker tale, involving collusion between government and big business to suppress the truth. Although they are employed by the FBI, Mulder and Scully stand essentially for the decency and integrity of the ordinary citizen.

Screen Firsts: Eight For Eight-Thirty
BBC2, 10.20pm

The slot for young film-makers returns with Tao Stappard's prizewinning short about a dinner party from hell. The hosts are a smug young couple celebrating their plush new pad. The guests are mainly of the same noisy and superior type but with one glaring exception. Lizzie, a shy writer, did not want to come and soon wishes she was somewhere else. Rejecting the wine for mineral water, and unable to hold her own in the vulgar word games which interrupt the conversation, she is teased to the point where reticence gives way to aggression. There is often a savage and surreal quality to Stappard's carefully selected black and white images and, with only ten minutes to make its points, the film does not waste a second. The prize was for best drama at the British Short Film Festival. Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (2691896)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3372693)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5678709)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1829728)
10.35 This Morning (15770235)
12.20 Regional News (s) (6180167)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3424902)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (8152544)
1.20 High Road (Teletext) (84809896)
1.50 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (95816867)
2.20 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (57066438)
2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (3861780)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2108099)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2190070)
3.30 The Magic House (s) (1580544) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (3598254) **3.50 Budgie the Little Helicopter** (s) (1551032) **4.05 Tiny Toon Adventures** (s) (1188341) **4.30 Cone Zone** (Teletext) (s) (148) **5.00 Animaniacs** (r) (Teletext) (s) (3899411)
5.10 Animal Country (8522438)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (392709)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (865631)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (646326)
7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (s) (6167)
7.30 West Eye View. Ray Tostevin previews the Scott Report on the sales of arms to Iraq (877)
8.00 The Bill: Stop the Music. DS Beech discovers a body next to a large amount of crack cocaine and no witnesses which is not good news. (Teletext) (5815)
8.30 Outside Edge. Mim wants a fixture cancelled when she learns that Piggy Pearson's divorced sister will be in attendance (Teletext) (s) (4322)



Brian Dennehy shoots to kill (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: Blue Heat (1990) starring Brian Dennehy, Joe Pantoliano and Jeff Fahey. An undercover narcotics squad discovers a sophisticated drug ring involving the law enforcement hierarchy and the city's most powerful businessmen. Directed by John MacKenzie. **Continues after the news** (Teletext) (s) (140728)
10.00 News at Ten, weather (Teletext) (46815)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (132419)
10.40 FILM: Blue Heat continued. (Teletext) (s) (6631)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (273815)
12.35 FILM: B.L. Stryker — Grand Theft Hotel (1990) Quirky crime drama starring Burt Reynolds, Loni Anderson and Ossie Davis. Stryker is assigned to protect a priceless piece of jewerlry. Directed by Tony Wamby (721552)
2.20 Late & Loud (s) (2918007)
3.15 The Chart Show (r) (s) (4832194)
4.10 Football Extra (r) (3050033)
5.00 On the Road to the Islands (36620)
5.30 Morning News (34129)

As HTV WEST except:
5.10pm-5.40 On the Road with Elinor (8522438)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (646326)
7.30-8.00 Knowing My Place (877)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (6198186)
12.55 Emmerdale (3409693)
1.25 Chain Letters (84808167)
1.55-2.25 Home and Away (96266308)
2.25 Vanessa (57065709)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1421326)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8522438)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (58148)
7.30-8.00 The Middle Ages (877)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3409693)
1.25 Chain Letters (84808167)
1.55 A Country Practice (34567438)
2.20 Vanessa (57066438)
2.50-3.20 Look and Cook (3861780)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8522438)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (646326)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (877)
11.40 Film: The Omega Man (633419)
1.30am Late & Loud (4353945)
2.25 Hotel Babylon (4453620)
3.05 Funny Business (53398129)
3.35 Football Extra (2698216)
4.10 Jobfinder (3570552)
5.20 Asian Eye (1245910)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3409693)
1.25 Home and Away (84808167)
2.20 Vanessa (57066438)
2.50-3.20 The Afternoon Show (3861780)
5.10 Home and Away (8522438)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Making It Happen (577964)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (341)
6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs (693)
7.30-8.00 24 Hours (877)
11.35 Prisoner Cell Block H (991709)
5.00am Freescreen (36620)

ANGLIA

Starts: 8.35 Think Tank 88 (5285761) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (76631) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (23964) **9.30 Schools** (60983) **9.30 Heart** (60983) **10.10 Maths Everywhere** (8617341) **10.25 Iechyd A** (8603148) **10.45 Quest** (9034273) **11.00 Science in Focus** (3420544) **11.20 Stage One** (7275612) **11.35 Film and Video Showcase** (2483544) **11.45 First Edition** (2800254) **12.00 House to House** (43728) **12.30pm Earthworm Jim** (71099) **1.00 Slot Melithrin: ABC** (46490) **1.30 Time Team: Navan** (56983) **2.30 Screaming Reels** (254) **3.00 Love in the Afternoon** (8983) **4.00 Backdate** (506)**4.30 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (490) **5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5** (7273) **5.30 Countdown** (970) **6.00 Newyddion** (221273) **6.15 Heno** (749070) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (143341) **7.25 Dudley** (318544) **8.00 Pacio** (3457) **8.30 Newyddion** (2964) **9.00 O Flaen Dy Lygaid** (4273) **10.00 Brookside** (44457) **10.30 Cutting Edge: The Treatment** (99341) **11.30 Rising Damp: Fire and Brimstone**(35896) **12.00am The Decision** (58842)

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (5285761)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (76631)
9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (23964)
9.30 Schools Eureka! (8278803) **9.45** Stop Look Listen (3228308) **10.00** Forways Farm (3353964) **10.10** Maths Everywhere (8617341) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9021709) **10.45** Guest (9034273) **11.00** *Science in Focus* (3420544) **11.20** Stage One (7275612) **11.35** Film and Video Showcase (2483544) **11.45** First Edition (s) (2800254)
12.00pm House to House (43728) **12.30 Sesame Street** (55254) **1.30 Ovide** (79616029)
1.55 One Fine Day. A tribute to America's women's liberation movement (17850235)
2.00 FILM: Mother Wore Tights (1947). Nostalgic musical about vaudeville stars Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. Directed by Walter Lang (3544)
4.00 Backdate. Quiz with Valerie Singleton (s) (Teletext) (506) **4.30 Countdown** (s) (Teletext) (490) **5.00 The Montel Williams Show** (s) (Teletext) (2737411) **5.50 Terrytoons** (570051)
6.00 The Avengers (r) (Teletext) (49490)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (125761) **7.55 The Slot** (468322)
8.00 Ride On. Nicky Campbell discovers the joys of owning an old banger; Alain de Cadenet takes to the skies in a stunt plane in the company of Brendan Walsh, manager of Pink Floyd; and Muriel Gray samples the delights of the Levellers' tour bus (Teletext) (s) (3457)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2984)



Zach goes to Amsterdam (9.00pm)

9.00 The Decision: The Wrong Body (Teletext) (s) (4273)
10.00 FILM: Switching Parents (1992) starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Robert Joy and Kathleen York. True-life drama about a 12-year-old's decision to seek a legal "divorce" from his separated parents. Directed by Linda Otto (878235)
11.45 Nurses: Paco embarks on a lucrative career as a spy (Teletext) (s) (136524)
12.15am Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Napoli v Atalanta (331571)
1.15 Next Stop Hollywood: The Heart Of The Deal. Short film following a thirtysomething who re-evaluates his life when two mysterious visitors demand a huge donation (r) (7511755)
1.40 FILM: Randy Rides Alone (1934, b/w). John Wayne western, with the Duke as an undercover lawman endeavouring to catch a ruthless gang of train robbers. With Alberta Vaughan and Gabby Hayes. Directed by Henry Frazer (1608281)
2.40 The Dispossessed: Strangers in Their Own Land. Focusing on the plight of people uprooted and persecuted in their own country (8993378) Ends at **3.40.**

● *For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday*

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (75706) 8.30 Press Your Luck (3583506) 8.50 Love Connection (62122723) 9.20 Court TV (4433709) 9.50 Oprah Winfrey (4191816) 10.40 Jeopardy! (1881167) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (6539860) 12.00 Beechy (88662) 1.00pm The Waltons (89032) 2.00 Geraldo (87419) 3.00 Court TV (2506) 3.30 Oprah Winfrey (6612457) 4.15 Undun (2377490) 5.00 Star Trek (8186) 6.00 The Simpsons (7157) 8.30 Jeopardy! (4457) 7.00 LAPD (7815) 7.30 M*A*S*H (3341) 8.00 Police Stop! (59815) 9.00 Chicago Hope (39051) 10.00 Star Trek (494389) 11.00 Law and Order (16273) 12.00 The Late Show (2074755) 12.45am The Untouchables (5457533) 1.30 Sibs (73216) 2.00 Hit Mix Long Play (8056020)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3632273) 9.30 Fashion (11631) 10.30 ABC Nightline (70896) 11.00 World News and Business (93322) 1.30pm CBS News (81490) 2.30 Parliament Live (5790) 3.15 Parliament Live (3826815) 8.30 Tonight (2090) 7.30 Sportsline (1983) 8.30 Target (3812) 11.30 CBS News (86544) 12.30am ABC News (55194) 1.30 Tonight (71858) 2.30 Target (59888) 3.30 Parliament Replay (33620) 4.30 CBS News (45045) 5.30-6.00 ABC News

SKY MOVIES

6.20am Gaslight (1940) (53819964) 8.00 Jailhouse Rock (1957) (81098) 10.00 A Million to One (1993) (95893) 12.00 Out on One (1977) (64322) 2.00pm Cross My Heart (1990) (23490) 4.00 HG Wells's The First Men in the Moon (1964) (1490) 6.00 A Million to One (1993) (43254) 8.00 Sleeping with Strangers (1994) (56099) 10.00 Alistair Maclean's Death Train (1994) (840051) 11.40 Bound and Gagged: A Love Story (1993) (526815) 1.30am Separated by Murder (1994) (1569110) 2.50-5.00 Tops and Viv (1985) (34200465)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima (1952) (3032) 6.00 Bachelor Mother (1939) (25896) 8.00 Witness (1985) (20341) 10.00 Guns at Batasi (1964) (696693) 11.50 Frances (1982) (84545186) 2.10-3.50am Belle De Jour (1967) (573571)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Red Garters (1954) (62322) 8.00 Transformers — the Movie (1986) (72341) 10.00 Will Any Gentleman? (1953) (32235) 12.00 Dennis (1993) (62064) 2.00pm Cheyenne Warrior (1994) (21032) 4.00 Transformers — the Movie (1986) (9032) 6.00 Cagney and Lacey: The Return (1994) (10493) 7.30 Special Feature: Heat (6051) 8.00 Damski Special Feature: Heat (4634) 10.00 Desperate Remedies (1993) (237099) 11.35 The Last Hit (1993) (3797772) 1.10am CB4 (1993) (8427668) 2.40 Born to Run (1993) (3472261) 4.20 Will Any Gentleman? (1953) (476113)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (62019698) 6.30 Fraggle Rock (41932167) 7.00 Winnie the Pooh (97177542) 7.30 Ducktales (60052268) 8.00 Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (15398709) 8.30 Wonderland (15940780) 9.00 Disney (62026841) 10.00 Under the Umbrella Tree (41923419) 10.30 Fraggle Rock (15360544) 11.00 Muppet Babies (88555806) 11.30 Pooh Corner (88558235) 12.00 Quack Attack (15951896) 12.30pm Dumbo's Circus (40244322) 1.00 Wonderland (98527083) 1.30 Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra (19204709) 2.30 Stick with Me, Kid (41588419) 3.30 Winnie the Pooh (88521612) 4.00 Quack Attack (88517419) 4.30 Ducktales (88539831) 5.00 Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (21890834) 5.30 Danger Bay (88520983) 6.00 Tarzan (88527886) 6.30 Dinosaurs (88518148) 7.00 Thunder Alley (45290790) 7.30 FILM: Yours, Mine and Ours (45153983) 9.30-10.00 Zorro (40284186)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Speedworld (28952) 9.30 Live Biathlon (52436) 10.30 Football (74439) 11.30 Biathlon (53187) 12.00 Live Biathlon (73505) 1.00pm Figure Skating (18167) 3.00 Dancing (39236) 5.00 Biathlon (7070) 6.00 Snowmobile (62490) 7.00 Aerobics (84761) 8.00 Live Boxing (84582) 10.00 Snooker (30954) 11.30-12.30am Pro Wrestling (57815)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (43341) 7.30 Racing (30148) 8.00 American Sports Cavalcade (49709) 9.00 Aerobics (51898) 9.30 Ice Hockey (54273) 11.30 Speed and Beauty (69099) 12.00 Aerobics (91032) 12.30pm Ringside Boxing (60902) 2.30 Tartan Extra (28631) 4.00 UK's Strongest Man, from Blackpool Arena (41322) 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Mania (2902) 6.00 Sports Centre (6893) 6.30 British Rally Championships (2083) 7.00 World Cup Cricket Preview (21554457) 8.55 Sports Centre (310032) 9.00 The Footballer's Football Show (75877) 10.00 Sports Centre (32781) 10.30 British Rally Championships (89709) 11.00 World Cup Cricket Preview (47436) 1.00am The Footballer's Football Show. Presented by Richard Keys (85674) 2.00-2.00 Sky Sports Centre (13945)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Golden Rugby (9936780) 10.30 Golden Gloves with Barry Mcguigan (3923780) 11.30 The Golden Age of Motor Racing (3401322) 12.30-1.00am Gillette World Sport Memories: 1988 (6377674)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word 5.00 Kenneth Copeland 5.30 Kidz TV 5.45 Chronicles of Revival 6.15 Colin Dye 6.45-7.00 Christian Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5448070) 7.55 As the World Turns (3699983) 8.50 Peyton Place (50724525) 10.10-11.00 Another World (6822186)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2321322) 11.30 Trailside (2302051) 12.00 On Top of the World (9895051) 12.30pm Italian Cookery (5925411) 1.00 Around the World in 30 Minutes (9248615) 1.30 Travel Guide (6275952) 2.00 Ski Special (8075525) 3.00 Gateway (6901728) 3.30-4.00 Down Under (1563544)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Most Decorated: First Air Cavalry of Vietnam (2845902) 5.00 The Gangsters — a Golden Age (6995789) 6.00-7.00 Biography (4275772)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm The Invisible Man (93060254) 8.25-10.00 FILM: Man from Planet X (11687896) *1.60eye Inside Space* (1746303) **1.30** Sci-fi Buzz (9900849) **2.00** FILM: Man from Planet X (9829128) **3.30-4.00** Night Gallery (5421939)

TLC

9.00am Painting (1042815) 9.30 Grow with Joe (4410525) 10.00 Two's Country (8492436) 10.30 Our House (1048089) 11.00 The Painted House (5898167) 11.30 Running Repairs (5888986) 12.00 Julia Child (1022051) 12.30pm The Frugal Gourmet (4414541) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (2936606) 1.30 Local Heroes (4413612) 2.00 Dogs with Dunbar (1886322) 2.30 The Secret Gardens (1838467) 3.00 Two's Country (1805457) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (1823902)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (9788083) 7.30 Neighbours (4536380) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (1021322) 8.30 EastEnders (1020693) 9.00 The Bill (1044273) 9.30 The Sullivans (4412963) 10.00 Howards' Way (8136344) 11.00 Juliet Bravo (4736588) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (1031709) 12.30pm Neighbours (4423095) 1.00 EastEnders (6926384) 1.30 The Bill (4415070) 2.00 The Sullivans (11984612) 2.25 Are You Being Served? (2774070) 3.00 Angels (1807815) 3.30 Eldorado (1803032) 4.00 Casualty (45088235) 5.05 Generation Game (83088983) 6.15 Comic Cuts (4858544) 6.25 EastEnders (7690419) 7.00 Eldorado (1999896) *7.30 And Mother Makes Five* (1811780) 8.00 Get Some In! (9013506) 8.25 Butterflies (5992970) 9.00 The Sweeney (8467815) 10.00 The Bill (4268051) 10.35 Classic Cup Final (82593273) 11.40 Miami Vice (5717631) 12.40am FILM: Escape from Fort Bravo (6892945) 2.15-3.30 Shopping (57645552)

TCC

8.00am Swan's Crossing (69490) 8.30 Pugwall (873222) 7.00 Ready or Not (26709) 7.30 California Dreams (38544) 8.00 Sweet Valley High (96341) 8.30 Tiny TCC (24761146) 12.35am Tiny TCC (45611615) 2.30 Happily Ever After (7148) 3.00 Sonic The Hedgehog (5490) 3.30 The New Pink Panther Show (2893) 4.00 California Dreams (1728) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (3952)

NICKELODEON

8.00am Henry's Cat (9751728) 8.15 Blue (330457) 8.45 Toucan Tex (8863780) 7.00 Batfink (6644693) 7.05 Grimmy (4540322) 7.45 Rugrats and Doug (485382) 8.15 Aaahh! Real Monsters (5517631) 8.30 Rocko's Modern Life (68186) 9.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks 9.30 Pee-Wee's Playhouse (96457) 10.00 Banana Sandwich (59902) 11.00 Children's BBC (48438) 12.00 Magic School Bus (62902) 12.30pm Grimmy (50273) 1.00 Global Guts (40254) 1.30 Veterinarian (99544) 2.00 Children's BBC (41987) 3.00 The Latest Pet Shop (8964) 3.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8051) 4.00 The Fesels (7186) 4.30 Rugrats and Doug (6070) 5.00 Sister Sister (5709) 5.30 Mission Top Secret (7322) 6.00 Ren and Stimpy (4235) 6.30-7.00 Clarissa (8815)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1829709) 4.30 Charlie Bravo (1818693) 5.00 Classic Wheels (1896709) 6.00 Terra X (1639186) 6.30 Beyond 2000 (9341235) 7.30 Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1819322) 8.00 Dambusters of the Sky (6445893) 9.00 Secret Weapons (5691631) 9.30 Fields of Armour (4401877) 10.00 Classic Wheels 11.00-12.00 The Falklands War (9586885)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Green Man (7845186) 1.30pm Honey West 2.00 Danger Man (8480693) 3.00 The Buccaneers (1882693) 3.30 Adventures of William Tell (1837726) 4.00 FILM: Restless Natives (1803069) 6.00 Dead at 21 (1826612) 6.30 Automan (9338761) 7.30 The Green Hornet (1813148) 8.00 Space 1999 (6449419) 9.00 Alien Nation (6452983) 10.00-12.00 FILM: The Legacy (5686709)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Beauty and the Beast (77235) 8.00 Entertainment (7693) 8.30 Wings (6726) 9.00 Soap (45148) 9.30 Laverne and Shirley (87709) 10.00 *Entertainment* (63631) 10.30 Bosom Buddies (49051) 11.00 Pigsy (40693) 11.30 Sledgehammer (20761) 12.30am The Odd Couple (91910) 1.00 Wings (68088) 1.30 Soap (17674) 2.00 Laverne and Shirley (11587) 2.30 Entertainment (27194) 3.00 Buddies (84804) 3.30-4.00 Pigsy (14674)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7948631) 7.00 Kilroy (7033167) 8.00 Esther (8942903) 9.30 Gardenwise (8292344) 9.00 Taste of Wales (9129649) 9.35 Kate and Allie (2886235) 10.05 Jerry Springer (8269490) 11.00 Young and Restless (8363419) 11.55 Brookside (7849709) 12.30pm Dangerous Women (2992476) 1.25 Crosswits (6880186) 2.00 Agony Hour (7790867) 3.00 Live at Three (7505322) 4.00 Intatuation UK (9189877) 4.30 Crosswits (8134457) 5.05 Lingo (90381867) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (9192341) 6.00 Bewitched (9189254) 6.30 Brookside (8277059) 7.05 MacHue Jeffrey's Inden Cookery (5465896) 7.40 The Joker's Wild (9793895) 8.05 Young and Restless (1732235) 9.00 FILM: Love on the Run (21262322) *10.55 Sylvania Waters* (3612235) 11.30-12.00 Sex Life (8204772)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00am Ocean Odyssey (7235) 5.30 Tintin (401475) 5.55 Batman (575696) 6.30 Catchphrase (2457) 7.00 Trivial Pursuit (7099) 7.30 My Two Dads (1341) 8.00 FILM: Hart to Hart: Hart to Hart Returns (35815) 10.00 Treasure Hunt (12322) 11.00 Neon Rider (35457) 12.00 Tintin (51804) 12.30pm Bordertown (44026) 1.00 Batman (33184) 1.30 Rhoda (57282) 2.00 Big Brother Jake (57309) 2.30 Neon Rider (38200) 3.30 Rhoda (54282) 4.00 Big Brother Jake (76755) 4.30-5.00 Ocean Odyssey (27587)

MTV

8.30am The Grind (99780) 7.00 3 from 1 (9582490) 7.15 Awake on the Wildside (5812341) 8.00 Music Videos (271544) 11.00 Soul (16322) 12.00 Greatest Hits (17964) *1.00pm Music Non-Stop* (72239964) 2.45 3 from 1 (2790728) 3.00 Cinematic (7560032) 3.15 Hanging Out (4072544) 4.00 MTV News (2354709) 4.15 Hanging Out (2337032) 4.30 Diet MTV (2070) 5.00 Hanging Out (9693) 5.30 Boom! in the Afternoon (3322) 6.00 Hanging Out (8685) 6.30 MTV Sports (4815) 7.00 Greatest Hits (22709) 8.00 Ultimate Collection (30490) 9.30 Beavis and Butt-Head (18893) 10.00 MTV News (229781) 10.15 Cinematic (257544) 10.30 Real World London (87235) 11.00 The End? (94341) 12.30am Videos (1537026)

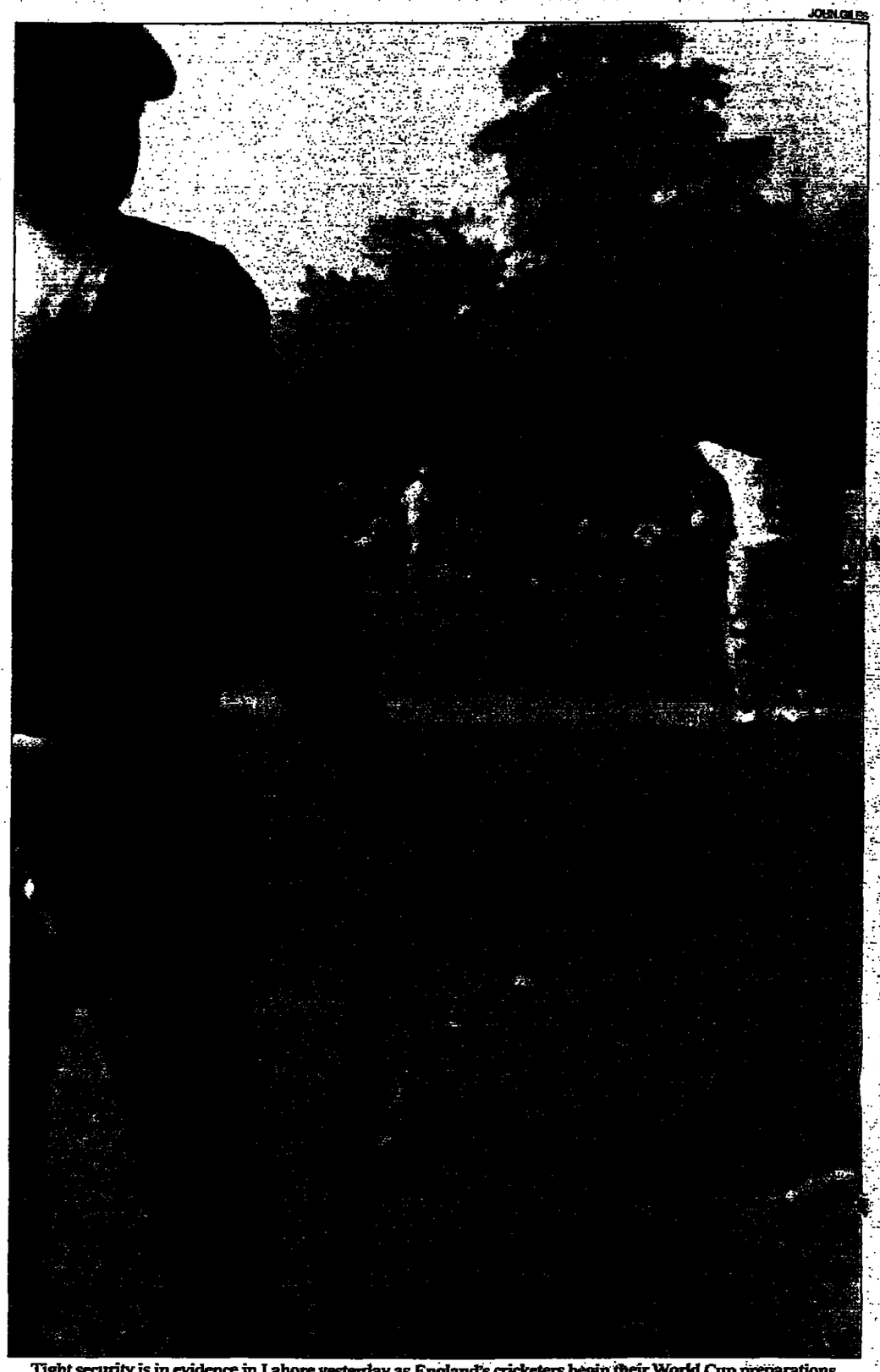
VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3245186) 9.00 Cafe VH-1 (6584802) 12.00 Heart and Soul (4370526) *1.00pm The Vinyl Years* (8075934) 2.00

هكذا في الاهرام

Australia receive widespread support for refusal to play match in Sri Lanka

West Indies join World Cup stand


JOHN GILES

Tight security is in evidence in Lahore yesterday as England's cricketers begin their World Cup preparations

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

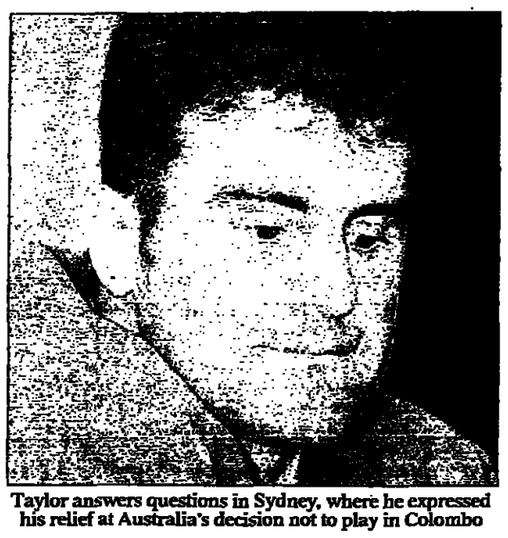
WEST INDIES last night followed Australia's lead by asking for their World Cup match in Sri Lanka to be switched, further undermining the troubled competition that is scheduled to begin next week.

Hours after Australian cricket officials had announced that they would not be sending their team to Colombo, a statement from the West Indies Board of Control revealed that it has requested the World Cup committee to move thematch against Sri Lanka, on February 25, away from the island. The inference is that, like Australia, West Indies would rather face the consequences of refusing the fixture than the potential consequences of playing it.

The West Indies squad is at a training camp in Barbados, where some of the players have expressed concerns about going to Colombo. Yesterday morning, having risen to hear the latest developments in Australia and India, the president of the West Indies board, Peter Short, said that the paramount issue was the safety of his players. The board's unambiguous threat to follow the Australians' action was issued yesterday evening.

Pilcom, the joint Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka committee, is now in a fearful mess. Despite Australia's entreaties, Pilcom has declined to countenance switching matches away from Colombo, where 80 people died in a city-centre bombing last week, and must now decide how to handle the decision by two of the leading teams not to play there.

Australia and West Indies may be told that they must forfeit the points from the games concerned, which would, coincidentally, smooth Sri Lanka's path towards a favourable quarter-final. Conceivably, as Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, acknowledged yesterday, his team and the West Indies could be disqualified. Much the most rational option, utilising available grounds in India to stage the games, seems to have been sacrificed to stubbornness and political grandstanding. It would take an act of judicious humility by Pilcom to reconsider.


Taylor answers questions in Sydney, where he expressed his relief at Australia's decision not to play in Colombo

The issues here have little or nothing to do with cricket. Sri Lanka's Government is understandably anxious to avoid giving any signals of weakness against terrorism and, to this end, is effectively seeking cricketers as hostages to fortune. Pilcom, already facing barely practicable completion schedules on ground improvements and under constant pressure from the television companies who are making the event prosperous, are equally anxious not to move the furniture at short notice.

These twin motivators brought forth some ripe comments yesterday, none more striking than those from Lakshman Kadiragamar, the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, after his announcement that the Australians, if they would reconsider their position, could expect the type of security normally only offered to visiting heads of state and would need only to stop in his country for one night.

He was probably wasting his breath but, undeterred, he said: "Great sportsmen are always under constant threat from lunatics and psychopaths. Being a sportsman is not a cakewalk but, eventually, it is the viewing public that matters. You try not to let them down. Despite the Munich massacre, the Australians took part in the Olympics. It must be too much of a courageous act for today's sportsmen to take part in a match in Sri Lanka."

As if this tub-thumping was not enough to alienate further the Australians, Kadiragamar then ridiculed the fears of Shane Warne that he could be a casualty of a bombing while out shopping in Colombo. "Where is the time to shop during a one-day match?" asked the politician, adding scornfully: "Shopping is for cissies."

No one is under greater stress, with the opening ceremony only five days distant, than the convener of Pilcom, Jagmohan Dalmiya. He is deserving of sympathy, though he may regret his ill-judged comment on the Australian request for a venue switch. "We have considered it carefully," he said, "and the situation does not warrant a change." Given the sensitivities between Australia and Sri Lanka even before the bombing last week, one wonders quite what circumstances Dalmiya would require before agreeing to a change.

The Australian board, while under no illusions about the seriousness of its latest move, cannot be blamed for its caution. Taylor explained: "There was no lobbying of the ACB by the players. The board has made a unanimous decision which took it out of our hands." Taylor admitted to being "relieved", an emotion shared by Warne, who asked "is it worth risking our lives?"

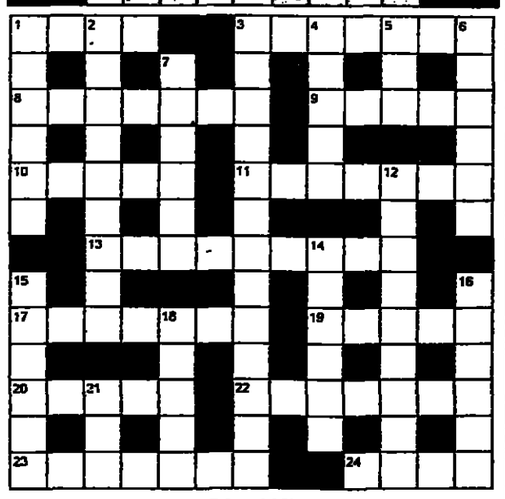
Australia are due to revisit Sri Lanka in August for a three-Test tour but the political unrest would need to have calmed considerably for that series to go ahead. Yesterday, Leicestershire, who had arranged a pre-season trip to Sri Lanka next month, cancelled it, while from Lahore, where England are warming up for the competition, Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, spoke supportively of the Australian stance.

"You have to feel sympathy for what they have done," Illingworth said. "It would have been a difficult situation for us if we had been due to play in Colombo." England do play in some sensitive areas, and in both Peshawar and Karachi they will be heavily guarded and advised not to leave their hotels. However, the assistant manager, John Barclay, said yesterday that he was satisfied with the Pakistani security arrangements.

Indeed, while other countries debate where and whether to play, England's concerns yesterday extended only to where they might take refreshments. Their first game in Pakistan, against the United Arab Emirates on February 18, falls in Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, and they have been told that, when drinks intervals fall due, they must take them out of public view in the dressing-room.

Leading article 19

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 697

ACROSS
1 Anger: fashion craze (4)
3 (Bland) food (for the mind) (7)
8 Conspire: condone (7)
9 Holy Cup, quested for (5)
10 Cloven (5)
11 Long journey (of Ulysses) (7)
13 Shocker of a play (9)
17 Torpor: oppressive calm (7)
19 Ointment; — Regina (hymn) (5)
20 Simple job; certainty (5)
22 Number symbol (7)
23 Prepare for (fencing) attack! (2,5)
24 Guessing game (1,3)

DOWN
1 Colour prejudice (6)
2 Person with manners (9)
3 Greater influence, power (13)
4 Push-chair (5)
5 Meadow (3)
6 SE Asian people; sounds like *unease* (6)
7 Beam over door (6)
12 Portable weapons (5,4)
14 Take for granted (6)
15 Trite expression (6)
16 Put into battle formation (6)
18 Attendant; its house fell (*Poe*) (5)
21 Horse; keep on at (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 696
ACROSS: 5 Reggae 7 Offcut 9 Knee-jerk 11 Helm 12 Riser 13 Petite 15 Dismal 17 Wrack 19 Snag 20 Fall flat 22 Clever 23 Guinea
DOWN: 1 Broker 2 Fete 3 Bookie 4 Stem 6 Guesstimate 8 Crestfallen 10 Jorum 14 Towel 16 Afford 18 Kitbag 19 Sack 21 Luge

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Housewife's choice is to conquer the world

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

YOU have to admire the woman's pluck. As she said herself yesterday, at one of the more bizarre press conferences followers of the Whitbread Round The World Race have experienced, she is hardly a renowned international racing sailor. But that is not going to stop Jacky MacGillivary from skippering an entry in yachting's premier racing event this year.

She did not pretend to be anything other than an enthusiastic and very optimistic amateur.

"I'm sorry I'm not one of the well-known, high-profile names usually associated with the Whitbread," she told a press conference at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, central London, where the *Susser Challenge* was formally launched yesterday. "But I am someone with the guts, the determination and, more importantly, the will to win.

"I'm the ordinary average housewife mother-of-two. I woke up one morning and said 'Gosh, it's a nice day — I'll do the Whitbread.'"

Her sailing CV includes an Atlantic crossing with a blind crew and she has more than 500,000 racing and cruising miles under her keel.

Among those on board will be her husband, David, whose job, according to briefing documents handed out yesterday, will be to "protect the crew from the skipper", and Maureen Polhill, 45, who has run a hairdressing salon in Worthing for the past seven years.

Ireland seek continuity with McCarthy at helm

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

AFTER weeks of speculation, Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, was yesterday confirmed as manager of Ireland in succession to Jack Charlton. His appointment was announced at a press conference here yesterday afternoon.

"Mick had an excellent career, has a superb background, he was a widely experienced player, is an experienced manager and we are excited that he has agreed to join with us," Louis Kilcoyne, the president of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), said. "There is a difficult road ahead, but it's the dawn of a new era for Irish football, and an exciting prospect for Mick."

The announcement was hardly a surprise. As Kilcoyne conceded, several names were discussed initially when the FAI were looking for a manager with a higher profile than McCarthy, but moves for Alex Ferguson, Howard Wilkinson and Joe Royle were blocked by their clubs.

So, ultimately, was a move for Kenny Dalglish, who had widespread support. Although Dave Bassett and Kevin Moran both impressed in a round of interviews, McCarthy, Charlton's captain for most of his 57 caps, was the favourite even before Joe Kinnear withdrew last week.

"It's a job I've always wanted and I'm looking forward to it," McCarthy said after being offered the job at his meeting with the FAI executive. "It is an exciting prospect, but it is a bit of a daunting one as well following on the years of success that we've had. But that can't deter me from what I want to do, which is to have a go at it and try to qualify for the World Cup in France."

McCarthy's contract initially ends in two years, taking him up to those World Cup finals. He is under no illusions about the requirements of the job.

"If we get to France, they'll probably be talking about me being here for ten years. If we don't, I could be on the next ferry out of Dún Laoghaire," he said. McCarthy will, at least, waste no time in taking up his post. Tomorrow he flies to Malta to watch Russia, who will visit Lansdowne Road at the end of March, which is when he will meet his own squad. Lack of knowledge of his own team, however, should not be too much of a problem.

McCarthy has played with many of them, his last game for Ireland coming in 1992, and since then he has stayed close to the Ireland scene, talking regularly to Charlton. He watched their last two matches under Charlton, the defeats by Portugal and Holland at the end of last year, which brought Charlton's ten years in charge to an untimely end.

Following Charlton, who transformed the status of the game in Ireland as well as that of the national team, is not easy. Charlton's team qualified for two World Cups and the 1988 European championship, raising expectations possibly beyond realism. McCarthy will have to try to meet them with a team many observers think is in decline.

"Some of the players are ageing and I will have to have a talk with them about how they feel. But it is also exciting to find new players and to try to produce a team capable of competing in the way we did," McCarthy said.

One player he is likely to try to persuade to make himself available for Ireland is Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur striker. Armstrong is eligible for Ireland because of an Irish grandmother and he had been approached by Charlton a year ago, without success. Yet, as one of McCarthy's former players at Millwall, the manager clearly feels it would be worth having another try.

McCarthy's appointment is, in many ways, a vote for continuity, with some commentators dubbing the Barnsley-born McCarthy "son of Jack". Both are tall, both were uncompromising centre halves from mining backgrounds, but behind the bluff exteriors there are differing philosophies. "I probably had more rows with Jack than anyone," McCarthy said. His approach at Millwall certainly speaks for different views on the game.

Yesterday he suggested that, depending on the players available, he might play with a sweeper, an approach that Charlton would not consider.

Faustino Asprilla's £6.7 million move from Parma to Newcastle United could still go ahead, the Italian club's lawyer said yesterday. Leandro Cantamessa put the problems surrounding the transfer down to "misunderstandings" about the deal and Asprilla's fitness.

Photograph, page 44

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